The New-York Times.

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"MERRY CHRISTMAS."

The Observance and the Festivities of the Day.

General Suspension of Business on Monday.

The Religious Services at the Churches To-day.

THE SKATING SEASON.

THE PARKS, PONDS AND RIVERS.

A "MERRY CHRISTMAS" TO ALL.

The merriest season of the year, the old, time-honored Christmas festival, began last evening. Rigid sticklers for ecclesiastical computation may feel inclined to dispute the correctness of our reckoning, and require us to antedate holidays nearly a fortnight; but Christmas belongs to the people, and they have practically settled the matter by fixing on Christmas eve as the commencement of the great Winter holidays. The ecclesiastical season, proper, continues till the 1st of February, or the evening before the purification of the Virgin; but, practically, the holidays comprehend a period of a fortnight, commencing on Christmas eve and ending on Twelfth Day. The whole of this season, even in hard-working America, is still thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the "Merry Christmas" greeting which it is ushered in; but even where the festival is most mirthfully observed, it is very much changed from what it was in the rude old feudal times, when people better understood the art of making merry. It is enough to make one's blood glow, on the coldest Winter night, to read how our English forefathers used to celebrate Christmas and the following holidays:

On Christmas eve the bells were rung;
On Christmas eve the mass was sung;
The damsel donned her kirtle sheen;
The hall was dressed with holly green;
Forth to the wood did merry men go
To gather in the mistletoe.
Then opened wide the Baron's hall
To vassal, tenant, serf and all;
Power laid his rod of rule aside,
And ceremony doffed his pride.

The fire, with well-dried logs supplied,
Went roaring up the chimney wide;
The huge hall table's oaken face,
Scrubbed till it shone the day to grace,
Bore them upon its massive board
No mark to part the squire and lord.
Then was brought in the lusty brawn,
By old blue-coated serving-man;
Then the grim boar's-head frowned on high,
Crested with bays and rosemary.

Then came the merry masquers in,
And carols roared with blithesome din;
If unmelodious was the song,
It was a hearty note and strong.
Who lists may in their mumming see
Traces of ancient mystery;
White shirts supplied the masquerade,
And smutted cheeks the visors made;
But, oh! what masquers richly dight
Can boast of bosoms half so light!
England was merry England, when
Old Christmas brought his sports again,
'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale;
'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale;
A Christmas gambol oft would cheer
The poor man's heart through half the year.

WALTER SCOTT must have a preëxistent acquaintance with the festivities of the olden time to be able to depict them in such graphic pictures for our delight and envy. Certainly, if books and traditions report the old world aright, there has been a constant gravitation toward sobriety during the last two or three centuries, until popular merry-making is in danger of falling into the category of the lost arts.

Christmas was always merriest in England, where the festivities presented a curious intermingling of Christian, pagan, and Druidical ceremonies, rites, and traditions. The burning of the Yule log, for example, was derived from the Scandinavian practice at the feast of Juul, at the winter-solstice, of kindling huge bonfires in honor of their god Thor. In many parts of England the Yule log is still brought in and burned in the spacious fireplaces of the old-fashioned kitchens, while mirth and jollity of all sorts are the order of the night. The careful Devonshire housewives, at this season of the year have the chimney swept a few days previously, so as to guard against accidents from its taking fire. In Cornwall, the Yule log is called the mock, and great festivities attend the burning of it, including the old ceremony of lighting the block with a brand preserved from the fire of last year. In Cheshire the servants regularly go on a spree for seven days after Christmas, leaving their masters and mistresses to shift for themselves as best they can. It must be confessed that this is carrying the art of merry-making to a degree *bordering* on license.

In Germany Christmas Eve is the grand children's holiday for the whole year. The beautiful custom of displaying the presents on a Christmas tree, in the principal room of the house, enables all the family to be present at the merry festival. The older members share the pleasure and the innocent surprises of the children, and grow young again by force of sympathy. The Christmas tree has become so familiar to us within the last ten years, that it would be waste of words to describe the German festival; and we will only express our pleasure that this beautiful and poetic mode of distributing presents is gradually superseding in this country the old prosaic custom of "hanging the stocking," although there are pleasant memories linked with the old fire-place, through which our childish imaginations used to see old Santa Claus emerge at midnight, with his bundle of toys on his back. But then modern houses would alone destroy that fancy. What child would believe that Santa Clause could squeeze himself through the grating of a furnace registered in the floor? The old tradition was evidently intended only for the spacious chimneys and fire-places of olden time, through whose wide, yawning throat one could look up at night and see the stars twinkling through the thin blue smoke. Nothing to hinder Santa Claus from coming down those chimneys, with a buhdle of toys as big as his own body.

We are beginning to pay more attention to Christmas in this country than formerly; and there is an evident tendency to make the most of all our holidays. It is a sign of progress in the right direction. It shows that our people begin to acknowledge that man cannot live by work alone, but that he must season life with other days of rest besides Sunday, which is often no day of rest at all. We ought, indeed, to have more legal holidays, and Congress would do the country a favor by establishing the 22d of February as one. No work should be done on the birthday of the "father of his country."

Christmas, as a religious festival, has been observed by the Church from very early times. As the day on which our Saviour first showed himself in human form, it holds the highest place among Christian festivals; and though at one time denounced by the Puritans as superstitious, and to the present day disregarded by the majority of Calvinistic Protestants as unwarranted by Scripture, there are few who dispute the propriety of observing the anniversary of Christ's birth by a religious service. It is true the evidence regarding the date is traditional and conflicting; but St. Telesphorus, who was Bishop of Rome in the early part of the second century after Christ, is said to have established it, and that is near enough and old enough to give it an oder of sanctity, and to satisfy most people. Since the end of the fourth century, at least, the 25th of December has been uniformly observed as the anniversary of the Nativity by all the nations of Christendom. As the only festival of the year which is observed equally from a religious and a secular point of view, it has an interest which no other day can possess. The highest and most sacred associations mingle with merry-making and festivity. It was, perhaps, from a feeling that religion and pleasure were incongruous elements that made the stern old Puritan bear such a dislike to Christmas. He would have had the day observed, if at all, as a kind of Sabbath. Well, after all, he was half right. It is the Sunday of the world, but one on which every one is at liberty to wish his neighbor a "Merry Christmas!"

RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-DAY.

How Christmas will be Observed in Some of the Churches—Splendid Decorations and Superb Musical Programmes—The Festivities of Christmas Eve.

To-day, the Christian Church throughout the world will celebrate the birth of our Saviour. To-day, the grand anthem of his incarnation will be sung by millions of voices. To-day, all over the land there will be merry greetings and happy hearts. To-day, the children of all Christendom will rejoice over presents drawn from the ample stores of Santa Claus, and to-day the high and the low, the rich and the poor, on land and on sea, wherever the Christian religion is recognized, will bow in humble adoration of the event which gave to the world the Redeemer. The day occurring this year on Sunday, the services in the churches in this city will be more than usually interesting. Many of our temples of worship have been most elaborately decorated, and the forests and gardens have been stripped of their choice holly and balsam to honor the sacred occasion. The lady members of the various churches have employed much of their time, for several days past, in plaiting evergreens and tastefully arranging them in honor of the services to-day. Trinity Church has been elaborately decorated. The scene inside the edifice is exceedingly beautiful, and from porch to chancel is one of triumph. Three arches extend across the aisls through which a view is obtained of the chancel. Each arch is surrounded by a cross of evergreens, the center one bearing a star symbolical of the Star of Bethlehem and the Light of the world. The most careful attention is display in the decoration of the altar, pulpit, chorister's desks, lectern and font. The church is otherwise superbly decorated. Rev. Drs. VINTON and OGILBY will officiate to-day, and the annexed programme of music will be followed:

The Venite will be sung to a chant by WOODWARD, and the proper Psalms for Christmas Day (the XIXth, XLVth and LXXXVth) will be chanted antiphonally. The service (*Te Deum* and *Jubilate*) will be sung to Kempton in B flat. The great feature of the music, however, will be the Anthem, which has been selected from the Messiah. It will open with two solos by Mr. GEO. S. WEEKS, the principal tenor—the words being "Comfort ye my people," and "Every valley shall be exalted." It will close with a grand chorus on the words, "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed."

In the morning:

Recitative, "And there were shepherds," } Messiah
Chorus, "Glory to God in the Highest," }
W. BERGE and chorus of 40 voices.
The 10th selection of Psalms chanted antiphonally by a double quartette.
Chorus, "Unto us a Child is born," from the Messiah, by W. BERGE and chorus.
After the sermon, the Grand Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah.

At the ante-communion and communion Dr. CUTLER'S service in E will be sung.

The decorations of St. Paul's Church are similar to those of last year. The ceiling and columns are ornamented with a labyrinth of laurel and other evergreens, which run in broad and intricate festoons from the organ-chamber to the corners of the altar. The service will commence here at 11 o'clock. Previous to it, the children of the schools attached to the church will sing the celebrated carol entitled "Christ and the Roman Soldier."

St. John's and Trinity Chapels are very tastefully and elegantly ornamented. It is understood that Rev. Dr. WESTON will preach in the former, and Rev. Dr. HIGBEE in the latter.

The Church of Holy Communion has been beautified for the festival, and the altar, pulpit and organ chamber are robed in dresses of evergreens and flowers.

Christ's Church, on Fifth Avenue, one of the most chaste and elegant edifices in the city, is most beautifully decorated with laurels and other evergreens. A large number of pine trees have been used to complete the display, and the scene presented is handsome throughout.

At St. Thomas Church there is a novel display, symbolical of religion and country. On each panel there is a star—the whole number being thirteen—so arranged as to represent the birth of Christ by the Star of Bethlehem, and the birth of the Republic in the days of the thirteen colonies. Rev. Dr. MORGAN will officiate.

St. Luke's Church is decorated with great care. The antipendium and decalogue pannels are adorned with arches of evergreens, and near the altar are several ecclesiastical devices. The shields, jets and organ chamber are also tastefully decorated. The Rev. Dr. TUTTLE will officiate.

The decorations of St. Ann's Church for deaf mutes are very elaborate and most beautifully arranged. They consist principally of evergreens and flowers gracefully woven into sentences relative to the Birth of Christ. The Pastor, Rev. Mr. GALLAUDET, will preside, and the following musical programme will be observed in the morning:

Carol—Words and Music by W. Francis Williams.
Venite, anthem.....Loud
Te Deum in B flat.....Thomas
Jubilate Deo.....Ch. Geuner
Glori Tibi.....O. M. Newele
Anthem, ("And there were shepherds").....Chappele

In St. Patrick's Cathedral, and, indeed, in all the Catholic Churches, the magnificence of the services and the decorations is such as can only be seen at Christmas. Elaborate flower-wreaths and dazzling illuminations will enhance the usual grandeur of the high altars. The Cathedral decorations are especially splendid, particularly in the lavish display of exotic flowers, the ornamentation with evergreens being limited in order that the profuse floral display may not be veiled.

The Most Rev. Archbishop MCCLOSKY will celebrate two Pontifical High Masses at 5½ and 10½ o'clock, assisted by large numbers of the subordinate clergy. A new Mass, the fourth of Mr. GUSTAVUS SCHMITZ, the organist, is to be sung. The Mass, which is in G, is dedicated by Mr. SCHMITZ to the Very Rev. Father STARRS. It consists of minor and grand choruses, solos for soprano, alto, tenor and bass, and duets for sopranos and tenor and soprano and bass voices. The remainder of the musical programme comprises favorite solos and choruses.

The leading singers will be—Soprano, Mme. CHOMI; alto, Mlle. PAULITZ; tenor, Mr. H. SCHMITZ; basso, Mr. DERBRUL.

St. Peter's, St. Stephen's, St. Joseph's, St. Andrew's, St. James' and St. Francis Xavier's Churches will all be opened for the celebration of high mass. The altars will be blazing with light, and brilliant in the profusion of exquisite flowers. Special musical programmes are made for the occasion, and eminent talent has been engaged to fitly render the songs of gratitude and joy.

General Suspension of Business on Monday.

As the great Christmas festival occurs on Sunday, there is a general determination to celebrate it to-morrow. We learn that nearly all the stores are to be closed, and the Presidents of the banks have publicly announced that they will not be opened for business. The Post-office will be kept open only until noon.

The Custom-house will only be kept open for an hour, for the purpose of recording arrivals and clearances.

The Mayor's office is to be closed on Monday.

In all the City Departments there will be no business transacted.

The judges have united in adjourning all the courts, and no trials will take place on Monday.

The "Gold Room" is to be closed—the speculators determining to honor the festival.

There will be no business transacted in the Petroleum Board on Monday.

In addition to these, all the insurance, shipping and commercial offices will be closed.

Business will also be suspended for the day at the various consulates.

THE SKATING SEASON.

Arrangements for 1864-65—The Ponds in this City, Brooklyn, Hoboken, Jersey City, and on Staten Island.

THE WAY TO GET TO THEM.

The skating season has already been inaugurated, the recent cold snap having formed ice of sufficient strength on nearly all of the ponds in this city and vicinity. The season of 1864-65 promises to be a long and brilliant one, equalling if not surpassing that of 1860-61. Accordingly, the arrangements of all parties are numerous and extensive.

Below we give a detailed account of the arrangements at the various ponds in this city, Brooklyn, Hoboken, Jersey City, and Staten Island, giving their location and means of access.

NEW-YORK—THE CENTRAL PARK.

Of course the Central Park Pond takes the precedence of all others. The arrangements for the present season are both numerous and extensive, but, of course much the same as last year; they could not be otherwise as the *acme* of skating-pond management has been obtained here this year or two. Another refreshment saloon has been erected on the upper pond, as also a new room for the accommodation of spectators; but beyond this there is nothing new. The visitors to the upper pond have increased so largely the year or two, that last season, short as it was, the accommodations were found inadequate to the demand, hence these improvements. The refreshment saloons on both ponds continue under the Messrs. STETSON, of the Astor House, as does also the skate department under the WALTON BROTHERS. There will, we understand, be a larger number of "chairs" on the pond this year than ever before; the demand for "chairs" increases every season, and no wonder, for a ride in them is a modernized sleigh-ride. We need not rehearse the rules, regulations, etc., as they are doubtless known by heart by all skaters, nor give the various routes by which the Central Park can be reached.

THE FIFTH-AVENUE POND.

This popular pond, located in the hollow between Fourth and Fifth avenues, and Forty-seventh and Fifty-ninth streets, will continue under the management of Major OSCAR F. OATMAN, well known as the late manager of the Washington Pond, of Brooklyn. It enters upon its third season under the most favorable auspices, but inasmuch as the accommodations, &c., have been described before in the columns of the TIMES, we think it scarcely necessary to describe them now. Suffice it to say that everything has been placed in apple-pie order, and that notaing will be wanting to insure the comfort of the visitors, both spectators and skaters. The skating superficies is a little over eleven acres, all of which is always in a good condition. The situation of this pond is the most delightful one we know of, being in a valley or hollow, surrounded by stone embankments, which shelter the pond from the wind, so that all is always "serene and lovely." The pond is lighted by calcium lights. A band of music will be in attendance every skating afternoon and evening. This pond, which is very select, is the only private pond in this city.

THE FREE PONDS.

The numerous free ponds in the upper part of the city will, of course, receive the attention of all the youngsters and poor. Indeed, the skating is often better on these free ponds than on any others, and "fancy skaters," who flourish on the Central Park and the Fifth-avenue, are frequently found on them. The largest of the ponds is Beekman's, on Sixty-first-street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues. Beekman's Pond is patronized almost as extensively as the Central Park. The Harlem Pond, at One Hundred and Ninth-street, is another fine free pond. These ponds, as also the Central Park and Fifth-avenue, can be reached by almost any of the avenue lines.

Brooklyn.

CAPITOLINE SKATING LAKE.

This favorite skating resort enters upon its third year under the most favorable auspices, and will, undoubtedly, be the principle pond in the Western District. It will continue under the able management of Messrs. WEED & DECKER. The skating superficies at this pond is larger by, perhaps, an acre, than any other pond in the city, all of it being fit for use. The improvements this year are both numerous and important. The sides of the dock or walk in front of the Club-house had been extended and closely boarded up, so that the embankment cannot possibly give way or the earth fall in upon the ice, which is a most important improvement. Several more bridges, too, have been provided, and a railing run all along the above-mentioned gallery. A shed, or rather a pavillion, has been erected on the north bank of the pond (on the site of the engine house,) as a resting place for the skaters. The restaurant and skate-department have been greatly enlarged, while the other rooms have been refitted, and generally improved. The Capitoline Skating Lake is accessible by three car routes, viz.: the Fulton-avenue, the DeKalb-avenue and the Atlantic-avenue routes, all of which leave Fulton Ferry, the last two passing the Catherine-street Ferry and (the Atlantic) Wall and South ferries. The pond is located on Nostrand-avenue, one block from Fulton-avenue. A prominent change in the rules is single admissions, which can be obtained for 50 cents.

THE UNION POND.

The "world-renowned" Union Pond continues under the management of Mr. WM. H. CAMMEYER, whose management of it during the last three seasons has won for him the encomiums of every skater. The Union is a model skating pond. The arrangements, on the whole, are pretty much the same as last year, for, to improve them, would be difficult. Of course the various rooms have been renovated, refurnished and redecorated. The entrance (necessarily) has been enlarged, and a shed erected solely for the boys, which, we presume, will be satisfactory to both them and their friends of a larger growth, as they always manage to make themselves disagreeable, in some way or another, so that it is best for them to be by themselves. The pagoda, too, has been repainted and repaired. The pond will be cleaned by horse-power, and two or more horses will be kept on the pond, in a stable just erected. The arrangements for lighting the pond are even more extensive than last year, when they were better than at any other place. A band of music will be in attendance, as usual, every afternoon and evening; and there will, we learn from the circular, be frequent displays of pyrotechnics throughout the season. The Union is reached by the Greenpoint, the Flushing-avenue, (which leave the Fulton ferry,) and the Division-avenue, or East New-York car routes, the latter starting at the Grand-street ferry, Brooklyn, E. D.

THE WASHINGTON POND,

on Fifth-avenue, corner of Sixth-street, Gowanus, has passed from the hands of Major OATMAN into those of Messrs. CARTER, SKINNER & FOSTER, all of whom have had some experience in skating-pond management. The arrangements are the same as last season. The accommodations at this pond are very extensive, and the new management promise to have everything in the finest order. The old Cortelyou House, erected in 1790, by an opulent Knickerbocker, and occupied by Gen. Washington during the battle of Long Island, stands on the margin of the Washington Pond, and is open to visitors. The Washington Pond is accessible by the Fifth-avenue, the Greenwood (Court-street) and Coney Island cars, all of which leave Fulton Ferry, the first-named touching at Wall and South Ferries.

THE NASSAU POND,

at Flatbush, will continue to be used by the Nassau Skating Club and their friends. Mr. LOTT still occupies the Presidential chair, and will, therefore, officiate as Master of Ceremonies. The accommodations and arrangements at the Nassau Pond are always ample and good. This is only accessible by the Flatbush cars, which leave Fulton Ferry.

OTHER PONDS.

CHICHESTER'S POND, on Bushwich-avenue, near Cooper's Factory, Williamsburgh, will be reopened by Mr. MAHLON CHICHESTER, the inventer. It can be reached by the Newtown cars from South Seventh and Grand streets ferries, Williamsburgh.

The following free ponds in Brooklyn are always crowded: The Poplar Ponds, on Fifth-avenue, near First-street, reached by the Fifth-avenue and Greenwood cars, from Fulton, Wall and South ferries; Seller's Pond, Bedford, near the Jamaica Pond Road, accessible by the Fulton-avenue, Atlantic-avenue, Devel, East New-York cars, leaving Fulton, Wall and South ferries; Dumbleton's Pond, on Myrtle-avenue, by the Myrtle-avenue car, from Fulton ferry; and the Suydam's Pond, on Atlantic-avenue near the Hunters-Ferry road, reached by the Atlantic-avenue and Fulton-avenue "East New-York Direct" from Fulton, Wall and South Ferries.

Hoboken.

SYLVAN LAKE.

This well-known and splendid skating resort, located at the foot of Seventh-street, Hoboken, close to the ferry, will be reopened this season. The accommodations and arrangements at this pond, though much the same as last year, are ample and good. It is lighted with innumerable variegated Chinese lanterns, upon the style of the Cremorne Gardens. Music will be in attendance every fine evening. Sylvan Lake is one of the largest and finest skating resorts in the United States, being over 26 acres in extent. It will this season be under the sole management of Mr. GEORGE LINGARD. It is reached by any of the Hoboken ferries.

Jersey City.

HERCULES POND.

The Hercules Pond, on the corner of Morgan and Warren streets, will, we understand, be open again this Winter. It covers an area of some four acres, and affords fine skating. The Hercules Pond, it is perhaps unnecessary to state, is accessible by the Jersey City ferries.

MORRIS CANAL.

Last Winter the Morris Canal Company, upon the solicitation of numerous prominent citizens of Jersey City, allowed the water to remain in their canal, which was largely visited during the skating season. The canal is an excellent—in fact the best place in this vicinage—for fast skating. The company have, we learn, concluded to let the water remain in the canal again this Winter. The canal, as is perhaps known, is near the ferry.

Staten Island.

SILVER LAKE.

There are many small ponds on Staten Island, which are extensively used in the skating seasons by the denizens of the *locale*. The largest, Silver Lake, some six or seven acres in extent, always affords fine skating, and was last season the resort of some of our finest skaters. Silver Lake is a little over a mile from the Quarantine Landing.

The Skating Yesterday.

Yesterday early in the morning the "ball was up," and the cars and stages running to Central Park, Fifth-avenue and the other ponds were crowded with people anxious to enjoy the first skating of the season. Nearly all the ponds above described were in good condition for skating, and those who love the sport seemed determined to embrace the first opportunity to enjoy themselves. Although the Central Park lake could hardly be considered to be in "prime condition," still there was sufficient ice to make that locality exceedingly hilarious. About noon the weather began to moderate, and before nightfall the ice was considerably cut up. In Hoboken, Jersey City and on Staten Island the ice could hardly have been better.

From Havana.

MOVEMENTS OF BLOCKADE-RUNNERS.

The steamer *Corsica*, from Havana via Nassau, arrived here this morning.

Nassau papers contain ridiculous accounts of SHERMAN'S army being dreadfully cut up, dispirited and divided, and there being 50,000 troops in Savannah to meet him, and the probability of his escape was doubtful.

WM. RAWSON, the new Governor of the Bahama Islands, had arrived at Nassau.

Rev. Dr. NICHOLSON, of the Episcopal Church of the United States, had left for Havana. He is on his way to Mexico on a religious mission.

A Gen. LEE is reported by the Nassau *Guardian* to have left Nassau on the 15th inst., in the steamer *Darien* for Bermuda.

The blockade-runners *Old Dominion*, *Wild River*, *Little Hattie*, *Banshee* and *Agnes E. Fry* had arrived from Wilmington; the *Syren* had arrived from Charleston; the *Gem*, *Marmion* and *Kenilworth* had returned in distress; and the *Virginia*, *Hansa*, *Ella*, *Kate Gregg*, *Charlotte*, *Will o' the Wisp*, *Stormy*, *Petrel*, *Little Hattie*, *Syren* and *Star* had sailed to run the blockade.

A Murderer Found Guilty.

ALBANY, Friday, Dec. 23.

GEORGE E. GORDON, whose trial for the murder of OWEN THOMPSON, a New-York cattle-buyer, has been in progress here this week, was found guilty by the jury to-day. The murder was committed at the West Albany cattle-yards on the evening of Sept. 16.

Troops Going to the Canadian Frontier.

BOSTON, Friday, Dec. 23.

Company A, Heavy Artillery, left Fort Warren to-day for frontier service. Their destination is Plattsburgh, N. Y.

UNDERHILL'S WINES.—Among Christmas gifts Dr. UNDERHILL'S wines deserve mention. They are made from grapes gathered in the famous Croton Point Vineyards, and their peculiar excellence consists in the fact that they are all pure, and neither drugged, liquored, or watered. Dr. UNDERHILL sells no wines but those over three years old, and they are decidedly the best and safest beverage that ladies can offer to their callers on New-Year's Day. Dr. UNDERHILL'S depot is in Astor-place, corner of 8th-st.

A SAD AFFAIR—A MOTHER MURDERS HER CHILD.—On Friday morning last, the wife of H. H. BABCOCK, Esq., of Plainfield, in a fit of mental derangement, cut the throat of her child, five months old, and then cut her own throat, killing both. As we are informed, she had, since the birth of her child, been afflicted with severe nervousness, which, it seems, culminated in insanity. On the morning of the sad event she arose as usual, and her husband awoke soon after, arose, asked her how she had rested, and being answered satisfactorily, went out, leaving her brother in the room with her. When Mr. B. returned a few minutes afterward, he called to his wife to accompany him to breakfast. Receiving no answer, he opened the door of her bedroom, where she had gone, and found her, with her feet against the door, weltering in her own blood. A bottle of laudanum was found in a drawer, and also a note to her husband, in which she regretted that she must leave him, and saying that it was her intention to take the little boy with her also, but that it was inconvenient. The little boy being questioned, said his mother had attempted to make him take some very bitter medicine a short time before, on the pretence that he was sick, but he ran away from her, and thus, doubtless, saved his life. Mr. BABCOCK is a merchant at Unadilla Forks, has represented his town in the Board of Supervisors, and, we believe, has been the Democratic nominee for Assembly in this district. Mrs. B. was a very amiable, kind-hearted, loving wife and mother, and her death is sadly lamented by hosts of friends.—*Cooperstown Republican, Dec. 24.*

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Affairs at the Front—How the Men Feel—Express Boxes—Christmas Preparations—The Weather—Miscellaneous.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH CORPS,
Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1864.

What shall I write? I cannot tell you that a battle has been fought, for no engagement has taken place. I cannot say that "everything is quiet," for our outer lines are anything but quiescent. Again, it will not do to say that the army has gone into winter quarters, for the very reverse is the fact; and although we are either costly ensconced in snug and comfortable huts and bomb-proofs, or busily engaged in building anew camps that have been destroyed or removed, we are prepared to "move on the enemy's works at any moment," as the orders have it.

In fact, we are still besieging and working, and hoping and trusting in the goodness of our cause and the strength of our armies. We have implicit trust in our leaders, an abiding faith in our Government, and a determination to do our duty, and hope, by the help of Heaven and good dry powder, to ultimately destroy our enemies, and overthrow the rebellion. No faltering hearts out here; no weak, vacillating minds in this army. All is hearty and healthful. At the proper time and the good right hour, this army will again shoulder the musket, and draw the sword for battle in defence of our flag and country, and against the mongrel banner that waves over Petersburgh. Let your readers trust us as of yore. The record of the past, carved by this army at the point of the bayonet and the muzzle of our cannon, stands a steadfast pledge for future success and still more brilliant renown.

Affairs just at present appear rather monotonous to a resident within army limits. To one who has listened to the grand and terrible sounds of our recent great battles, the monotone of our picket-fire, or the reverberations of our siege guns and mortars, are passed over with little comment or listless silence. A watchful picket-man catches sight of a head peeping over the opposite work. He snaps a cap and sends a bullet after the venturesome owner of the head. It disappears, and back come a few more bullets. Our pickets get their blood up and rapidly reply. The whizzing balls disturb the equanimity of some listless or lolling artillery officer. He shakes himself and forthwith orders "Ten-inch shell, two-second fuze," or in an angry tone cries out. "Case shot, four-second fuze," as he may determine. His men spring to their positions, a few scientific flourishes, and away goes the deadly missile. Another and another quickly follow, each fast recurring shell dropping right among them, disperses a scattering crowd of frightened "Johnnies." One of their forts reply. Forts of ours, to the right and left, take up the verse and continue it to the end of the chapter. Ten, twenty, thirty shrieking demons pierce the air, and the guns send their rolling thunders to the ears of all. The rebels give it up in despair and remain silent. A few more growls from our huge mortars, the thunder ceases, and we are once again left to quiet and repose.

Every day and every night these episodes recur, and the ear becomes so accustomed to the sound that it fails to interrupt conversation, or disturb recumbent sleep. Sometimes the gunboats become ambitious, and with their wide-mouthed and ponderous pieces strive to rival the forts with their terrific discharges. Cannon and mortar and bell-mouthed howitzer, musket and rifle and long-range telescopic guns, all play well their alloted part, and although they "mouth" it terribly, still are awfully effective. They keep "LEE'S miserables" on the constant rack, and compel them to remain fast locked in their ditch-bound traps. The rats are shaking with fear as they hear the bark of the dogs of war let slip by SHERMAN and his merrie men, and savagely gnaw at the iron gloves stretched forth to seize their recreant necks. Like the fabled chamber of torture, the walls of their den slowly but surely closes in upon them, and the pent-up cries will speedily cease.

We have fired salutes in honor of THOMAS, and with glad hearts hear of the grand success of Gen. SHERMAN. His boys call him "Crazy Bill." Hereafter lunacy will be the fashion, if *he* is an exemplification of the disease. How grand and glorious seem the telegrams from the victorious and exultant army of Georgia. With generous envy this army reads the glowing record. The galaxy of brilliant names carved out in this gigantic war shine every day still brighter, and glow with increased lustre.

I paid a hurried visit yesterday to City Point, and as usual with that bustling entrepot, found everything alive and moving. The crowds of laborers, never seem idle, and the trains of supplies for the front, follow one another as fast as the shells around Fort "Hell." Bales of hay and sacks of oats for the teams and steeds, hard and soft bread for the men, backed up by long rows of pork barrels, and flanked by car loads of vegetables, in one never-ending stream go up on GRANT'S successful railroad. As the trains push on, sweetly dipping into the hollows and wildly dashing at every hill, one cannot but contrast the two armies now lying in deadly opposition to each other. The one under the Stars and Stripes luxuriate upon the very fat of the land, and feel themselves doubly fortified by a sound digestion and the apparent strength of their cause and Government. The one vainly fighting beneath the "bars" have nothing to cheer them on to further efforts. Bad grub, a poor cause, and a scarcity alike of food and powder are but sorry chips with which to keep their rebellious pot boiling. Even if they succeed in bringing its temperature up to the bubbling point, the effervescence generally puts out more of the celebrated Southern fire than is healthful or desirable.

One of the most noticeable objects that meets the eye of the visitor to City Point, is the immense stacks of express boxes being dispatched to the different corps. Christmas is coming, and so are the boxes. I learned from Mr. EDDY, the superintendent of Adams Express, that over three thousand boxes and packages arrive at his office daily. Just imagine it; and what volumes of love and good wishes they stand the burly monument and evidence of. Just at present the contents of these boxes are of the digestible order, I wish I could say of the substantial. But truth compels me to say that the nose is offended by the smell thereof. When will our kind friends at the North learn that Express companies can but forward the goods intrusted to their charge by the regular channels, and cannot be expected to fly. Turkeys and chickens; cakes and sweet meats; jellies, jams and syrups, all are good, very good. Commend me to them; but everything has its limit, and such things will not keep forever, even if they survive the jostling and rack and tear of railroad travel.

If you must send boxes to your soldier boys, pray let it be shoes and stockings, warm woolens, comfortable comforters, and pleasant and instructive reading. Leave nuts and apples, cakes and such like gimcracks, for the sutler to furnish. He is compelled to sell them cheap, and he has them good and fresh. How often have I seen a box, on being opened, prove to be a mass of sickening corruption unfit for the sty, let alone for soldiers. The few really valuable articles in the package completely spoiled by being smeared with stickey jam, and soiled beyond belief by rotten poultry or decayed fruit. Much better the money thus uselessly wasted in furnishing an appetizing treat had been spent in buying some good and healthful books—not necessarily religious works—but some sharp, keen and truthful story of real life. No yellow covers, but sound, solid and feeling novels. Such works always circulate, and the more we have of them the easier will seem the tedium of camp life, and the healthier and higher will be the morale of our gallant boys.

As the joyous days of the Christmas holidays approach, the army feel their estrangement from the family hearth and festive board with double force, but like all true men, only shake off the regretful feelings, and set about enjoying the joyous season as best they may. The sutlers are furnishing all they can with the traditional turkey, and the boys contrive to surprise themselves with the success of their cooking. Perhaps you may not credit the story when I say that good pies and passable puddings can be made by our "bayonets." If they are not exactly *au fait*, the vigorous appetites of the feasters make up the difference.

The weather now-a-days is neither fair nor foul. We endure rain and pass over cold, enjoy the transient sunshine and laugh at the howling winds. In our huts, and before our fires, who cares for the weather; not the soldiers, verily. The roads suffer some, and the creeks assume a new dignity. Overcoats are handy and our shoes are good. Our health is splendid—remarkably so—and our eyes are fixed on the future. Grant us but a little patience, kind reader, and we will GRANT you such a record of future glory and success as will amply repay your forbearance.

Orders have been issued for a rigid inspection of the troops. To the best three regiments, for drill and appearance, in each corps, division and brigade, will be given rich rewards of furloughs, in regular descending grade. Such polishing, furbishing and regulating never was seen before. Blacker boots, brighter accoutrements, or more glistening weapons, have not been seen for a long time. The unfortunate regiments who are to be direly classed as the "worst," will have no rewards, and will be compelled to console themselves with the reflection that somebody had to be at the bottom of the class. Let us hope that the task of the Inspectors will be a difficult one, and I may say that I believe it will prove so.

GEO. F. WILLIAMS.

FROM CITY POINT.

All Quiet—Grant, Thomas, Sherman—Salutes for Thomas.

From Our Own Correspondent.

CITY POINT, Va., Monday, Dec. 19, 1864.

The remarkable quiet which has prevailed along our whole line for some days past, was broken this afternoon, by loud and continuous cannonading, apparently at our left centre, and which lasted for nearly an hour; but what the nature of the engagement was I have not ascertained up to the moment of the mailboat leaving. With the exception of the gunboats in the James River, which, every now and then, wake up the midnight solitudes with their hoarse thunder, everything has remained perfectly still, and even the pickets, on both sides, have temporarily ceased from their nightly amusement of useless butchery. It would be well if this could continue; for it is difficult to imagine what possible object can be gained, to one side or the other, by this mode of warfare. By it each day dawns, perhaps, upon two or three more helpless widows and orphans, or heart-broken mothers, but neither side has won one particle of advantage.

The fact is, that the whole of our army, and that of the enemy as well, are apparently spell-bound for the moment—like the rest of this whole continent, indeed, I may say, of the civilized world—in watching the result of SHERMAN'S sublimely audacious march through Georgia. We can afford to pause and admire, for this is only one link in a vast chain of movements, all circling round this point as a centre, and emanating from one prolific brain; but what sort of spell it must bring upon the rebel leaders in Richmond is difficult to imagine.

A feeling of almost awful grandeur creeps over any thoughtful man who stands in the shadow of Gen. GRANT'S headquarters just now, and thinks of the historic glory that is settling upon that unpretending edifice with each passing moment. From the little adjoining tents, where those mysterious wires all meet in a focus, and a perpetual clicking is heard, one word from the mighty chief who controls it can shake this whole continent. Sped onward by this agency, THOMAS is hurling HOOD'S scattered forces before him like chaff; SHERMAN, after sweeping through Georgia, thunders at the gates of Savannah; a fleet of 150 sail, with suitable land forces, has just left Fortress Monroe to strike a deadly blow somewhere; while even from distant Louisiana and Mississippi come proofs of their forming part in one gigantic scheme, the remotest extremity of which vibrates in sympathy with this wonderful spot.

But, however pleasant this may be for poetic speculation, it does not aid the labor of a correspondent. Indeed, no time can be considered more unpropitious for that useful and indispensable class of gentlemen than the present *transitional* one, between grand military local *designs* and their actual *performance*. We may see whole corps being moved from this point to that, gunboats performing this and that significant manœuvre, accidentally hear of orders being issued that we suppose can only mean one thing, put two and two together in the most ingenious manner, to please ourselves and an eager public; but the moment we put pen to paper, the whole atmosphere is full of the awful word, "*contraband*," and we are dumbfoundered." I am not grumbling at this; on the contrary, nothing else could, would, or should do at such a time. I only mention the fact, (in palliation not only of myself, but of all brother-scribblers about here just now,) if we should, for a little while to come, be detected in the laudable attempt at making a readable letter out of absolutely nothing. But, in the absense of news, the goodnatured reader must be content with that sort of pleasurable surprise which the Irishman felt, when he found that his French cook had made him twelve different palatable dishes out of nothing but potatoes.

I am glad to say that that awful foretaste of Winter has not since been followed up. The weather is mild, genial and beautiful, and the roads again in good condition.

Some vagabonds cut the telegraph-wires between this and Fortress Monroe, yesterday, but our active cavalry, under Capt. MASON, soon had it put to rights again. These depredators will be caught at their infernal work one of these times, and, if so, they will have cause to regret having indulged in such pastime.

A grand salute of one hundred guns was fired this morning, in honor of THOMAS' grand success. I hardly know how we shall be able to express our feelings from the throats of guns, when we hear of SHERMAN'S holding Savannah, and this I fully expect to learn before this letter is posted. J. R. HAMILTON.

The Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad Disaster.

CLEVELAND, Saturday, December 24.

The following is a list of the casualties caused by the disaster on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad yesterday:

Killed—John Robinson and wife, of Petersburg, Mich.; O. H. Perry, of Cleveland; Dr. Miller, of Minerva, Ohio.

Wounded.—George Penoyer, of Massillon, badly; Wm. Thompson, of Hudson, badly; Mrs. Golyer, of Philadelphia; Capt. King, of Winchester, Ohio; W. H. Cooper, of Reading, Penn.; E. S. Stevens, of the Indian Bureau, Washington, badly; Mrs. Thompson, of Mansfield; B. H. Graham, of Millersburgh; C. Kenworthy, of Philadelphia; P. Hammond, of Cleveland; Mrs. Embsteter, of Cleveland; Dr. Boch, of Pittsburgh; H. Gilman, of Cleveland; W. H. Baldwin, of Elmira; Mrs. A. Baldwin, of Cleveland, and a few others slightly.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE.

AFFAIRS BEFORE THE BATTLE.

General Aspect of the Situation—The Gunboats—Depredations by the Rebels—Miscellaneous.

From Our Own Correspondent.

[The publication of the following letter, relating to the situation in Tennessee before the recent battle, has been deferred in consequence of the pressure upon our columns. But they have lost none of their interest.]—ED. TIMES.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Saturday, Dec. 10, 1864.

THE REBEL SITUATION.

The great Austrian Field-Marshal Prince DE LIGNE, was an extensive letter writer. In his correspondence with the Emperor JOSEPH, in 1789, at one time, he wrote: "Here we are in this bulwark of the east, the gates of which we have not opened with rosy fingers, like Aurora, but with flaming fingers. The boldness and promptitude with which he crossed the Sare, the rapidity of his march to occupy the lines of Prince EUGENE, his audaciousness in reconnoitering as far as the palisades, and all this performed in a fortnight, are exploits worthy of the most splendid epoch in Marshal LANDON's life." In a short time after, DE LIGNE wrote as follows: "If we had provisions, we should march; if we had balls and bombs, we should fight." Now, it strikes me that HOOD is in pretty much the same embarrassing situation in 1864, near the Cumberland River, that DE LIGNE was in 1789, on the banks of the Sare. HOOD's army has made a tremendous march; and, after surmounting innumerable barriers and minor obstacles, is thundering at the very outskirts of this city. But that his supply of food and ammunition is exceedingly small, no one attempts to question. It is universally conceded that in the latter particular, HOOD stands in great need. He fell upon our columns at Franklin four lines deep with unbounded vehemence and fury, and made our sturdy men waver, right in the face of the most galling and disastrous artillery demonstrations imaginable. Had HOOD been provided with sufficient cannon and a plenty of ammunition of the grape and canister order, with the grace of God, there might have been a slight difference in the situation. HOOD, at Franklin, worked under advantages and disadvantages, which will ever give him historic mention. He had nearly three times our number of men, but we had artillery and position, the former of which we used to some purpose.

The country in which the rebel army is located, and its rear, is quite rich, and will subsist HOOD's men and animals for some time. A large amount of grain of all kinds was raised in Giles, Bedford, Maury, Williamson, Rutherford and Davidson Counties, while nearly all the planters and farmers are wealthy. Horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs abound in Middle Tennessee, and considerable attention had been paid to the raising of stock this season on account of the fabulously high prices paid for everything in the shape of provisions and grain by our Government. Large portions of Middle Tennessee, however, were put to cotton this year, the plantations, as a general thing, having been leased and run by northern men. Many crops were baled, and awaiting transportation, which, for some unknown and unkind reason, the Government has persistently refused to permit. It is feared that millions of dollars worth of this precious article will be destroyed. You will perceive that in the way of food there is no danger of HOOD's army starving yet awhile. This is due, in a measure, to the magnanimity of our Government, which has treated, from the occupation of Nashville, nearly three years ago, Tennesseeans with unwarlike considerations. Had our agents and quartermasters taken from these disloyal Tennesseeans all but the necessaries of life, HOOD's army could not have existed in a stationary position this long. He has to wagon his ammunition, and that portion of his supplies which he cannot pick up south of Nashville, from Florence. The Tennessee and Alabama Railroad is almost a complete wreck; but even if it were not, our forces removed all the rolling stock. If HOOD intends to attack this city, his delay must be occasioned by his lack of ammunition. He cannot certainly be expecting reinforcements, as there are none for him. There are a multiplicity of rumors afloat, in regard to BRECKINRIDGE "coming up," but we don't happen to see it in that light, yet awhile, in the least. If he does "come up," he must take a mighty circuitous route—BRECKINRIDGE's army cannot move through East Tennessee now.

The rebel army in our front maintains about the same position that it did just one week ago, with the exception that HOOD has extended his line upon his left, and moved up portions of his centre a few hundred feet. Back of the rebel front whole forests are disappearing with astonishing rapidity. For firewood, alone, the enemy consumes an awful amount, while it is known that he is building strong lines of works some four miles south of the city.

THE FEDERAL SITUATION.

The Federal situation, since my last, remains materially unchanged. During the existing calm our breastworks and rifle-pits have been strengthened, and all of the hills and detached mountainous spurs south and west have been converted into elaborate forts. The destruction of the country south of this city, including the very suburbs of Nashville, is almost complete. Whole forests have been leveled, beautiful groves which existed a week ago are no more, while all the farms and plantations about have been made desolate by the devastating genii of war. Horses and negroes, and wagons of every description, have been pressed into the service; cattle and hogs are among the things that were, most of which fell into the hands of "private" foraging parties; houses, outhouses, fences, &c., have been destroyed, either through accident, vandalism, or military necessity. The only consoling thought accompanying this state of affairs is the fact that there are very few Union people to suffer. Very few of the wealthy residents of Nashville, or Davidson County, are, or ever have been loyal. Many of them have taken oaths of allegiance until they know them by heart; but that didn't make them loyal. I tell you what it is, you can tell a Secessionist just as quick as you look at one, if you only know how. Not merely because he hates ANDREW JOHNSON and reads the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, but because his complaint is chronic, and he shows it in his face.

INCIDENTS.

The gunboats have had several fights in the past three days, every engagement resulting successfully to our iron-clads. Twice since the fight which I informed you of in my last, have the rebels tried to block up the Cumberland River, and twice have their batteries been dismounted by Commodore FITCH. The fight on Thursday was quite an earnest and exciting affair, but not of a sanguinary nature. For three hours four of our iron-clads hammered away at eighteen guns which the enemy had mounted some thirteen miles down the river. At the expiration of that time eight of the guns were dismounted and ten hauled off. Our boats were not injured, and we lost no men.

Very few on our side have been injured during the past four days—probably twenty exceeds our loss in killed and wounded. Their sharpshooters occasionally crawl up close enough to shoot some gunner dead. Two men of the Sixth Ohio Battery, which has been in constant use for nine days, were killed Friday morning. Two of our batteries have been firing day and night. They are located near Mrs. ACKLIN's residence, and have destroyed quite a number of superb mansions. All of the fine houses south of here are full of rebels, who have been constantly annoyed by the above-named batteries. Fort Negley fires an occasional shell, which generally goes upon an important mission, and generally performs it, too. It has the honor of smashing up the residences of Mrs. BUCKLEY, Mr. FELIX RAINS, the latter being killed, and Mrs. AARON V. BROWN's fine buildings at Melrose Park. The destruction of property by our artillery alone during the past week, approximates a million of dollars.

Many buildings within the rebel lines have been burned during the week, although no cause can be given but accident. All houses upon the enemy's side are protections for sharpshooters, and, of course, their preservation, not their destruction, is requisite.

It has all along been feared that HOOD, while boldly performing in our immediate front, might suddenly turn, throw his entire force upon Murfreesboro, pass through and burn the bridge at Bridgeport, and settle at Chattanooga and Knoxville. Now, maybe, this was his programme, for he sent a portion of CHEATHAM's corps to Murfreesboro, when ROUSSEAU, who is in command, sent out two brigades under MILROY, who attacked the rebels under Gen. BATE, of this city, six miles from our fortifications, and after a fair field fight, drove the enemy off with a loss of three hundred prisoners and six pieces of artillery. MILROY subsequently went back to his fort, carrying with him his captives and cannon.

At one time it was reported that Gen. GRANGER's brigade had been captured, and as no news could be had from the South we were at a loss to know what had become of Gen. GRANGER and his brigade, which had been ordered to Stevenson as soon as the evacuation of Huntsville should be made complete. In fact, what had become of Knoxville, Chattanooga, Bridgeport, Stevenson and Murfreesboro, was not known outside of those places, until Friday, when the telegraph was reëstablished via Cumberland Gap, and immediately Gen. THOMAS received the good news that all of the above named places, including ROUSSEAU's command at Murfreesboro, GRANGER's at Stevenson, MEAGHER's at Chattanooga and STONEMAN's at Knoxville, were safe. The dispatch also gave the cheering intelligence of MILROY's victory over BATE, and of STONEMAN's advance in East Tennessee.

COOPER's brigade, which was given up as lost, made its appearance at Clarksville a few days ago, and is on its way here. It marched from Centreville to within ten miles of Nashville, where HOOD had prepared a trap to gobble the command. Some patriot informed COOPER of the situation, when he turned his command toward Clarksville and marched it twenty miles at night, making fifty-one miles in twenty-four hours. This is the best march of the war.

Up to the present time no doubt exists as to the rebel army being in our front in great force. Yesterday was a frightful day, a violent storm of sleet, hail, rain and snow raging from morning till night. There was less picket-firing than on any other day during the week. Cannonading upon our side was kept up as usual from the Sixth Ohio Battery. All day long the rebels were engaged in throwing up a huge work near the Franklin pike, and another near the Grannywhite pike. It is believed that they intend to mount some artillery. From these points a shell could be thrown into the centre of the city.

On Thursday a portion of the Fourth corps made a heavy reconnoissance out upon the Murfreesboro' pike, but were driven in by the enemy, who showed themselves in great force. On the same day a portion of A. J. SMITH's command made a reconnoissance out upon the Charlotte pike, the enemy falling back as we advanced and following us up as we retired at night.

Few deserters come in at present. Probably not over thirty have come in during the week. Those who have come in don't appear to know much. It is believed that if HOOD falls back large numbers of Tennesseeans will desert.

From all reports our out-of-town folks are entertaining the rebel officers in great style. HOOD has his headquarters, it is said, at the house of Gen. HARDING, on the Harding pike. HARDING sent in word here yesterday that all of his stock had been taken, and that his own and neighbors' carpets had all been taken and cut up for blankets.

The loss of the rebels in the late fight at Franklin is acknowledged to be large. Rebel citizens from that neighborhood say that it will not fall below seven thousand in killed, wounded and missing. Our own loss exceeds one thousand. Gen. STANLEY will report again for duty in twenty days. The bone in Gen. BRADLEY's arm was not touched, and his recovery is looked for in a few days.

The formation of Quartermasters' brigades, some three months ago, proves to have been a foresight. CRANE's and IRVIN's brigades, nearly nine thousand strong, have been in the trenches for nine days, doing the work of soldiers. They have built a very fine work, which has been called Fort Peterson. Everybody connected with the Government in any capacity have, during this excitement, shown themselves to be true patriots.

We experience quite a loss in the abandonment and destruction of our block-houses along the lines of railroads which have fallen into the enemy's possession. Some of them were artillery-proof, but not sufficiently provisioned to stand a siege. Orders which were given for the general evacuation of these miniature forts, failed to reach some of the block-houses, and two or three cases are recorded where some excellent fighting took place.

Johnsonville has been evacuated. The last party which left there, arrived here via Clarksville this morning. All the rolling stock had been removed to Nashville nearly two weeks ago, as HOOD threatened the road when marching his army through Waynesboro. All the buildings, some of which are five hundred feet long, were left standing, as the most the enemy can do is to destroy them. About ten thousand dollars worth of Quartermaster's stores were destroyed.

The rebels have attempted to cross the river north and south of here, but have been unsuccessful in all their attempts. Our gunboats patrol the river from Carthage to Clarksville, while at least half of our cavalry are on the other side of the river.

The excitement among the people has died away to some extent, and things are more quiet in the city than during the former part of the week. Yet, like Micawber, every one is anxiously "waiting for something to turn up." BENJAMIN C. TRUMAN.

Hood Before Nashville—Importance to the Rebels of Capturing the City—Preparations for Defending It—Lively Scenes—Private Property Destroyed—Advance in Prices—Battle of Franklin—Its Losses.

From Our Own Correspondent.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Saturday, Dec. 10, 1864.

Nashville invested by a rebel army, and that army HOOD's, is a queer record to make, in view of the marvelously successful and brilliant results of the past Summer's campaign. Yet the redoubtable General, who fought at Atlanta and ran away from it with his army, has lived, by the process, to fight another day. And emulous, it may be, of the fame of SHERMAN, he has come to attempt the investing of a city on his own account, strong in the belief that he will capture it. A week has passed since his forces sat down before it. It has been a time of suspense, but of no serious fear or anxiety as to the result of anything HOOD might attempt against it. To-day, even, the thunder of cannon from Union guns on the surrounding hill-tops has ceased to startle the most timid, and all prospect of a little excitement from an attack seems to have disappeared. The question "Why don't he come?" is getting superceded by the other—"Where is he gone?"

But the town really *has* been invested. It may be still, though few persons seem to know anything positively about it—that is, whether HOOD, with his main army, is *now* lying just around the city, or is moving away from it, to try some less hopeless task. This latter is the prevailing opinion, among the uninitiated, at least. It will soon be known how well founded it is.

But the week has been a lively one exceedingly. The telegraph has given your readers the "situation" here from day to day, and what matters of interest connected with the army proper have been unfolded. I may sketch a few things observed from my own standpoint, which may be supplementary information gathered from other sources, and have for some readers an interest of their own.

The importance of Nashville to the Union, and the splendor of the prize to the rebels, if HOOD could by any means capture it, every reader sees at a glance. Enormous supplies for the army had been accumulating here for months. Immense store-houses filled with provisions, with grain and hay, large quantities of coal and wood, of quartermaster, commissary and medical stores, cars and locomotives by the hundred, with the multiform machinery, all on the grandest scale, designed and adapted to carry on the various work demanded by more than 1,200 miles of military railroad—all this was a part, and only a part, of the prize of Nashville taken. To take it, would be, moreover, to liberate Tennessee from hated Federal occupancy and rule, to rally to the rebel standard hosts of Tennesseeans whom necessity had forced to swear loathed fealty to the Stars and Stripes; to restore to their homes, and perhaps, families, many in the rebel ranks, long weary of banishment and of the field, and in fine, to raise the drooping spirits of the Confederacy by a conquest that would go far to make amends for all the disasters of the year's campaign! With such motives urging HOOD and his army to take Nashville, who will wonder that people here, expected at least, a most desperate effort to take it?

The effort was not made, only perhaps because prepared for so fully. After the severe fight at Franklin, on the 30th November, this preparation began in earnest. The city at once became a hive of buzzing and efficient industry. Not Dido's "toiling Tyrians" as Father Æneas from his cloud, saw them pushing forward their infant city, evinced more enterprise and activity. The employes of the Government swarmed everywhere. Every pick, spade, axe, shovel was brought into important requisition. Breast works were thrown up, earth forts constructed, with cannon looking out from them threateningly all along the approaches to the city. Nashville was girded with rifle-pits almost as rapidly as fairy Puck offered to "put a girdle round about the earth."

From the reservoir, crowning an eminence on the southern bank of the Cumberland, and straight across to Fort Nagley, half a mile off, the trenches took their stern way through the University grounds, through the gardens and yards of private mansions, through all obstructions that arose in their path. Multitudinous hands seemed to finish the work, almost as soon as it was begun. The forts and stockades already built, caught the spirit of energetic preparation for a sudden emergency. Those inadequately manned or supported, received a full supply of men for all their needs, while cannon, muskets, ammunition and other warlike material were arranged promptly where their aid was demanded. Outside the defences was much Government property, which the rebels would rejoice to seize upon if not secured. This was properly cared for. Immense droves of mules, many of the animals injured by hard service and released from work for a time to recruit, were driven from their suburban retreats through the town, and placed in secure corrals within the lines. Long trains of army wagons also passed through to the like place of safety. Single regiments, encamped two or three miles without the city, came into it, and were assigned to appropriate positions, with the main army which was now arriving. As the troops of Gen. THOMAS came in, they took their designated posts, pitching chiefly on the eminences, which run all around the city, and from all of which batteries were frowning.

It was a picturesque and striking spectacle to see these hills lit up by night with countless camp fires, while the roar of cannon, heard once or twice within the week, all night at intervals, was relieved by the frequent sharp crack of the picket rifles; for the rebel lines were, in a short time, erected over against our own, and not only picket firing, but brisk skirmishing, heard distinctly in the city, has been for a week an almost daily occurrence.

With the bustle and noise incidental to these movements, there has been little confusion or excitement, and less fear. I have not found the first man or woman yet that showed signs of alarm at the approach of the rebels or at the prospect of a successful assault by HOOD. Every one seems calmly confident of the safety of the place, and without uneasiness as to the result of the situation.

Skirmishing between the lines is frequent. On Wednesday our skirmishers were advanced in considerable numbers, and over a wide circuit, to discover the actual strength and position. A strong line started directly in front of the University grounds, advancing in plain sight of us, for more than half a mile, between the Lebanon and Murfreesboro pikes, till it drew the rebels' fire. For half an hour the rattle of musketry was so sharp that one might fancy a pretty serious engagement going on. Our line fell back gradually, the rebels proving themselves to be in force at that point. The damage done to private property between the lines is estimated as high already as half a million of dollars. Several fine dwellings have been shelled and burned. The Orphan Asylum still stands, but its fencing and barns have disappeared. The house of Mrs. A. V. BROWN, widow of the late Postmaster-General, situated three miles from the city on the Franklin pike, has become the headquarters of Gen. CHEATHAM, the family having sought an asylum several days ago at a friend's house within our lines. This house, a fine mansion of the olden time, and famous for the free-hearted hospitality of its recent occupants, is reported shelled and demolished. Suburban Nashville is noted for its elegant residences; those lying along the Franklin pike being specially attractive. Should HOOD be really determined to tarry where he is, till forced away, as he doubtless will be presently, or should he undertake an assault upon the city in earnest, the record of devastation will find a terrible addition to what the rebellion has already written up, against this once beautiful place.

One of the present serious effects of the city's being encircled by the rebel army, is the cutting off the market supply from the surrounding country. This, during the Summer and Fall, had been considerable, the various articles furnished by the farmers, particularly vegetables, not bearing a higher price than in the Western markets. The prices have already begun to run up, with the prospect of swift advance, unless the proper relief comes. This will appear from a recent order of the Provost-Marshal, Capt. BROOKS, fixing the following schedule of prices, all parties to be punished who transcend the prescribed standard:

"Wood $15 ℘ cord; beef 20c. ℘ lb.; mutton 18c.; Irish potatoes $3 ℘ bushel; sweet potatoes $4 ℘ bushel; turnips $2 50 ℘ bushel; cabbages 50c. ℘ head; butter 80c. ℘ lb.; onions $4 ℘ bushel; flour $15 ℘ barrel; milk 15c. ℘ quart."

Some of these prices seem moderate enough for the times. But without this military order, the prices would have doubled for most of these articles, and a large number of the population must have suffered distress, as many no doubt do even now. There is an immense population, requiring to be fed here the present Winter. What with hosts of contrabands, refugees and people whom the war has deprived of all employment, sweeping them clean of their worldly effects, subsistence would be hard enough under the most favorable circumstances. Hood and his army fixed here will prove an added ingredient of terrible bitterness to their cup. This cup, however, they may not be forced much longer to drink.

The battle of Franklin, fought on the 30th ult., proves to have resulted in heavier loss to our troops than at the first reports. It appears now that our whole loss in killed and wounded amounts to 2,165, and of this number 110 were officers. It was a terrific conflict truly, as all reports concur in representing it. Great as our loss was, it was but one-third that of the rebels, whose fierce charges on our open field were again and again repulsed. A large number of our wounded were but slightly wounded, and will soon be fit to return to duty. Of the officers, fifty-two have come in to the officers' hospital here, but one of whom, Major R. S. BOWEN, One Hundredth Illinois Volunteers, has died. A list of those wounded here I append for insertion, if the requisite room can be found for it in your columns. C. V. S.

Before the Battle.

NASHVILLE, Tenn, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1864.

The theatre of war has again been transferred to Middle Tennessee, and naturally, all eyes are turned in this direction. Military matters and events it seems, are uncertain, like changes in the weather, and the like. That man who, three months ago, would have dared to announce the fact that HOOD's army would have been encamped within gunshot o Nashville, in December, 1864, would have been declared insane. Any person who would have cogitated upon such an event, would have involuntarily esteemed himself an ass.

But such is the state of affairs. The rebel Army of Tennessee and the Army of the Cumberland confront each other precisely upon the ground they did just two years ago. ROSECRANS left this city on Christmas Day, 1862, and fought, and won a victory on the banks of Stone River, near Murfreesboro, thirty miles from Nashville, a week after. Three hundred miles nearly, were the obstinate enemy pushed into the very bowels of Georgia, in the space of nineteen months, while tens of thousands of brave men upon each side were hurried to untimely graves. Three short months elapse, and we find the rebel army back where it was two years ago, numerically stronger, and more defiant, and better soldiers than Europe ever saw.

But, ah! is there any one so unwise as to compare the interior of the situation of to-day with that of two years ago? I suppose not; I trust not. It cannot be possible that men of sense are impressed with the idea that the bloody battles of "Stone River," "Chickamauga," "Mission Ridge," "Lookout Mountain," "Resaca," "New-Hope Church," "Kenesaw," "Peach-tree Creek," and other sanguinary contests were fought in vain—that the blood of SILL KIRK, LYTTLE, HARKER, the great McPHERSON, and fifty thousand other noble fellows has been spilled for nothing. God forbid that such an impression should become rife.

No; the Federal situation, as I have many times informed you, is perfectly satisfactory. The rebels present a bold front, indeed; but they have no rear. Their army is like a snake with his guts snapped out. Gen. GEORGE H. THOMAS is pretty well known. I will merely add that he says everything is all right. It is known here and in Washington that he can whip and drive off HOOD's army to-day. *He aims to annihilate Hood and his army.* Time will tell.

Since my last, no material change in the movements of national or rebel troops, can be chronicled. While I write, the brightest moon, if you please, shines upon the coldest night I ever saw in Tennessee. Three days ago a violent storm of sleet ceased, and gave birth to a spell of cold weather, which makes even the sturdy Michiganders squeal. This sort of weather is still on hand, and absolutely nothing has transpired for nearly a week. Saturday and Sunday not a gun was fired, the soldiers' time being chiefly occupied in feeding the roaring fires which blazed for miles around.

Our troops, with plenty to eat and drink, with warm clothes, heavy blankets, good fires and shelter tents, have suffered with the cold. Must not the suffering on the rebel side, among the private soldiers, be intense? They are thinly clad, poorly shod, badly fed, with no tents and few blankets, and with thinner blood in their systems than that which courses through the veins of our own soldiers. This state of affairs can be relied upon. Rebel correspondents, more than two months ago stated, grandiloquently, that the "boys, blanketless and shoeless, started off upon their march for Tennessee, rending the air with their vociferations of joy." Gen. HARDING, Mrs. A. V. BUREN and ladies and gentlemen of reliability within the rebel lines, send in the intelligence that the whole neighborhood has been stripped of carpets, which are cut up and made into blankets. Other statements, of a reliable character, are to the effect that the rebels are suffering for substantial food and clothing. Statements which I made in my last letter, regarding HOOD's sweeping process of conscription, are corroborated by many who have escaped within our lines. His conscription, however, cannot injure us in the least. He gathers to his ranks a worthless crowd, who are traitors at heart, but unwilling to fight—a set of men who have invited this thing all along, and who have devoted their leisure in abusing the Government and slandering the patriots who are acting in its defence.

As the war goes on brave men get braver. For instance: LYTTLE was killed at the head of his column. McPHERSON was shot through the heart while rallying his troops. Gen. DODGE had a piece of his head chopped off while inspecting his lines. The rebel Gen. GRACIE's life has just been cut off while personally examining his position. Hundreds and thousands of other brave men have perished in like manner. During the siege of Atlanta, which may be considered to have lasted from the date of McPHERSON's death to the capture of the city, I was impressed with the conduct of the general officers assisting in that campaign. The rebel strength, in the way of fortifications, lie in front of Atlanta, upon both sides of the railroad. The headquarter-camps of Generals PALMER, JOHNSON, BAIRD, KING, CURTISS, JEFF. C. DAVIS, MORGAN, and others, were less than a mile from the rebel batteries. Gen. THOMAS' headquarters was a half mile further in the rear, but really in the worst place of all. His headquarters was immediately in the rear of SNYDERMASTER's battery—the first one which opened upon Atlanta, which was on Saturday, the 23d of July. For weeks three rebel batteries of 32 and 64-pound guns kept up an incessant fire of shells, by day and night, upon SNYDERMASTER, about half of which, however, having "full rations," went thundering into General THOMAS' camp. Several unexploded shells, shaped like a water-bucket, were on exhibition there at one time. They had been thrown from those 60-pounder guns stolen by FLOYD from the Washington navy-yard. The camps of JOHNSON, BAIRD and KING for weeks were pretty well attended to by the rebel artillerists, who hurled enough shot and shell in that space to start several iron foundries. Gens. SHERMAN and THOMAS rode around their lines daily, often to the dismay of some of those who accompanied them. General officers, now-a-days, seem anxious to make a personal inspection of their lines and of their working parties. One day Gen. SHERMAN was riding close to the skirmish line in GEARY's front, when one of his staff officers launched off and remarked, "He may go right square up and get shot, if he wants to, but I'll be —— if I do." Gens. BLAIR, LOGAN and DODGE might be seen at their front line of works almost daily. One afternoon Gen. PALMER sent word to BAIRD to open upon a certain battery which had been annoying some portion of his line. Gen. BAIRD ordered up the guns himself. As soon as they opened, the rebels directed their attention that way. BAIRD stood the whole fire, while portions of his staff, half a mile in the rear, took to trees. When BAIRD returned he laughed at them, and recommended that they improvise some "gophers." I rode out with Gen. BAIRD one night when he was around upon the right. He sneaks around upon neutral ground like an Indian. He actually hitched his horse upon the inside of his works, and went upon the outside, and occasionally told me to "Go a little quiet along here," and "There's their line; stoop down a little," and the like. BAIRD is very brave. CARLIN is just like him. When he was removed from brigade to division headquarters, last Summer, in front of Atlanta, he grumbled because he was so far off from his lines. I was visiting Gen. KING one day, and it happened that Gen. SCHOFIELD was moving his corps from left to right. This attracted the attention of the rebels in KING's front, and they shelled SCHOFIELD vigorously all the afternoon; but, unfortunately, more than half of them exploded in or near KING's camp. I must confess, I got slightly demoralized myself, and indulged in frequent potations of commissary, to renew my departing courage. Gen. KING laughed, as he watched the operations of his orderlies and "strikers," who were exceedingly overcome with fright. After the shelling had ceased, he called up the crowd, and put them all back in the ranks, adding, that he wouldn't have such a pack of infernal cowards about him. I could tell you a multiplicity of such stories. The above are from my own observation; and I am free to say that this war has developed one fact: that general officers are not to be found in the rear; and I can bear witness that no Commander, from the Chiefs down to Brigadiers escaped danger during the campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta. They seemed to have courted it, if one may judge by the way they pitched into it. Hardly an engagement occurs, either here or in the East, but what some of our general officers are either killed or wounded. Our loss was slight at Franklin and yet we had two general officers wounded.

PERSONAL.

Although COUCH ranks WOOD, the latter continues to command the Fourth Corps, in STANLEY's absence. This is as it should be. Gen. WOOD is an able and gallant officer, and has been in every fight in the southwest. He has twice been wounded on the field of action, and, curious to relate, he was both times wounded in the same place. No officer is more beloved than WOOD.

Gen. JAMES STEEDMAN was in town yesterday. His headquarters is on the Murfreesboro' pike, about one mile from town. Mr. JAMES HOOD, of the Chattanooga *Gazette*, is acting upon his staff, as Volunteer Aid-de-Camp.

Gen. COUCH has been given a command of a division in the Twenty-third Corps. His division is one of the finest in the army.

Citizens, who have arrived inside of our lines, report that no rebel general officer was killed, and but two wounded. This is the same as our own. They report that PATRICK CLEBURNE feigned dead to avoid capture, and that CHEATHAM's legs saved him. They report the rebel loss in killed and wounded three times larger than our own.

Gen. HOOD was upon the field during the Franklin fight, and in exceeding danger during its progress. He had been out of a sick bed but a week.

BENJAMIN C. TRUMAN.

OUR HAVANA CORRESPONDENCE.

News from Matamoras—Semmes Gone to Richmond—Seizure of the New-Orleans Steamer Sonora by Confederate Pirates—The English Blockade-Runner Alabama Captured—Blockading Fleet off Galveston—Two Americans Executed at Matamoras for Highway Robbery—French Troops on their Way Home from Mexico—The New American Consul at Havana—News from the South, &c.

HAVANA, Saturday, Dec. 17, 1864.

The *Monitor de la Frontera*, a paper published in Matamoras in English and Spanish, and which first appeared on the 19th of November last, contains an official dispatch from CORTINAS to Gen. MEJIA, giving an account of the defeat of CANALES, who, it will be remembered, left Matamoras with a small part of the garrison that still remained loyal to JUAREZ when CORTINAS basely went over to the Imperial party, surrendering the heroic city to MAXIMILIAN's Mexican Gen. MEJIA.

The engagement took place at Guerrero, CANALES' forces having attempted to dispute the passage of the river by their opponents, who succeeded in so doing and in taking the town, the fighting having been continued in the streets of the place, but at last CANALES' forces were put to flight, leaving, says CORTINAS' dispatch, some arms and horses in his possession.

The engagement, however, could not have been a very serious one, although CORTINAS attempts in his dispatch to make it an affair of importance, for CANALES left on the field of battle only four killed and seven prisoners, whilst on CORTINAS' side there was only one soldier slightly wounded. The killed on the side of CANALES appear to have been all officers of rank, namely, a Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, Major and a Lieutenant; the prisoners captured consisted of a Captain, Lieutenant, second sergeant, corporal and some privates.

It is also given as news that SEMMES, of the *Alabama*, visited Matamoras in company with a Col. FORD, and shortly after left Brownsville for Richmond, in company with twenty others, his friends. Since then it is given as news, in a Galveston paper of recent date, received here by the blockade-runner *Denbigh*, that SEMMES arrived at Galveston on the 24th ult., and continued his journey on the following day for Richmond.

The *Telegraph*, of Houston, gives officially the news of the steamer *Sonora*, of New-Orleans, having been captured by the Confederate Capt. CONOWAY and six others. The *Sonora* left Brazos Santiago on the 16th ult., and on the night of the 18th was captured by the above persons, who took the vessel into a Confederate port, the crew and passengers being delivered up to the Southern officer who commanded there. The *Sonora* is described as being a fine steamer, built in Scotland as a pleasure yacht, which came into possession of the Government while attempting to run the blockade.

According to the same paper of the 29th, the frost had done much harm to the sugar-cane, and the crop in Texas would be consequently far inferior to what was anticipated.

In the afternoon of the 7th there arrived opposite Galveston a United States gunboat, having in tow as a prize the English schooner *Alabama*, that had attempted to run the blockade. The captain and crew of the *Alabama* succeeded in escaping in a boat, and got to shore. The vessel had a cargo valued at $11,000 or $12,000. The captain of the *Alabama* arrived here, a few days ago, in the *Denbigh*, a blockade-running steamer that has made any number of trips between this port and Dixie. On the 7th, ten Federal ships, eight of them carrying cannon, blockaded the port of Galveston.

On the 14th of last month two Americans, named J. D. BANCE and D. F. NEVIL, were shot for having assaulted and robbed the passengers in the stage that runs from Boca del Rio to Matamoras, on the 1st of the same month.

The guerrilla chief PEDRO MENDEZ continued prowling about the towns and villages of what was once the State of Tamaulipas, but now denominated a Department, having with him, it is said, very few followers, but enough to do harm in defenceless places. Two columns of infantry and cavalry had left Matamoras to pursue him. MENDEZ on the 15th ult. was at the *rancho* of Gavilan, with 130 men well mounted but badly armed. Col. LARRUMBIDE set out the same day in pursuit of MENDEZ, with the intention of following up afterward another guerrilla chief named CAWASIL, if he had not submitted. Another guerrilla chief, named ZENTENO, in the same district, had asked a pardon of Col. LARRUMBIDE, but had not come forward, awaiting, it was supposed, the order of Gen. MEJIA. His men, however, fourteen in number, gave themselves up, with their passes and arms, to the Judge of Burgos. The town of Cruillos furnished Col. LARRUMBIDE with ten men, mounted and armed, to act as scouts, &c.

Temporary wooden barracks were being constructed at Matamoras for the troops. Col. GALVEZ had arrived there, to command the custom-house armed force. He was accompanied by the second in command, and another official.

Gen. MEJIA, says the *Monitor*, which, by-the-by, is his official organ, had gained the esteem and sympathy of the inhabitants by his kind and affable behavior. According to the same paper, the price of cotton on the 19th of last month was firmer, varying from 34 to 35 cents.

The Secretary of the Treasury of the Mexican Imperial Government has advertised for offers to establish a line of steamers along the Mexican coast in the Gulf from Campeachy to the Matamoras, touching at all the ports open to foreign trade, as well as at those for coasting vessels if desirable. The company is to be Mexican, or if otherwise, it is to renounce its privileges and rights of foreigners. The vessels, which are to be steamers, must carry the Mexican flag, and be nationalized according to the existing laws, making two voyages out and back per month. The contractors are to give a money security to the Government for establishing the line within the time fixed by it.

The news received here from St. Domingo is almost nothing, so that we are in a complete state of obscurity as to how the war goes on. This silence of the Havana press on affairs in a neighboring Spanish possession, to say the best of it, appears very equivocal. Are the Spaniards getting the advantage, or are the insurgents? That is the question.

The only information received here, and that comes by way of Porto Rico, is that the Captain General GANDACA had withdrawn to the Capital, leaving at Montecristi five battalions of infantry, a company of artillery and some cavalry, besides the battalion of volunteers of Porto Rico and a few of the militia reserve of St. Domingo.

The Ex-President SALCEDO is said, according to some, to be still a prisoner in the power of his own partisans, and, according to others, to have been shot by them.

In the Seibo there has occurred several skirmishes, and the Spaniards say that they took more than forty prisoners, the inhabitants of one district, Higuey, having behaved with great loyalty.

At Montecristi, according to the same accounts, there existed the greatest tranquility; the health of the place was said to be excellent, and there were plenty of provisions.

The French ship-of-war *Amazone*, from Vera Cruz, arrived here last Wednesday, on her way to Europe. She takes back 1,090 troops, including 60 officers, of the French Expeditionary Army of Mexico.

Our new Consul, Mr. MINOR, has taken possession of his office. He came here a short time ago in the United States vessel of war *Hartford*.

Mr. SAVAGE, who has acted so many years as Vice-Consul at this port for the United States, goes a passenger to New-York in the *Columbia* to-day.

LARA.

Our Prisoners in the South.

SARATOGA SPRINGS, Saturday, Dec. 10, 1864.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Will you continue to use the powerful influence of your paper to induce a more rapid and effectual exchange of prisoners. Can it be possible that our own Government is indifferent to the horrible sufferings of the many thousands that are yet prisoners in the hands of the rebels, left there until, by starvation and cruelty, they are disabled for life. The comparative silence of the Northern press, in exhibiting the truth that is so clearly made manifest in the condition of those who have recently been exchanged, has undoubtedly been the cause of England's offering us the insult of contributing to relieve Southern prisoners in northern hands. There is no stronger evidence of cowardly meanness than cruelty to prisoners, and if it has been practised by the North the world should know it. Every consideration of humanity would prompt to a more vigorous exchange, and the press should urge it continually upon the Government. It was promised that ten thousand should be exchanged immediately, but before the half of even that number are exchanged, it has ceased. Is there, then, no hope? Must those poor unfortunate men be left to die under circumstances of cruelty and torture, that those only who are born and bred under a system of slavery are capable of.

I have earnestly supported the Government and the Administration. I had two sons who left good business prospects to assist their country in her hour of peril. My oldest, without bounty, entered the army as a private soldier, and won his way to a First Lieutenancy, but the hardships were too much for him; he sank under them and died on the 1st day of June last.

My youngest raised the number of men that entitled him to a First Lieutenancy in the Fourteenth New-York Heavy Artillery, and faithfully and gallantly performed his duty in GRANT's campaign, until the 17th of June, when he was made prisoner before Petersburgh. I have had letters from him since his capture, but none for the past three months. He was very destitute and in great suffering. I have sent him money and clothing, but cannot learn that he has received them. Do, Sir, in God's name, make urgent appeals for the exchange of prisoners, and greatly oblige many anxious and suffering parents.

Yours truly, P. THOMPSON.

THE FRONTIER TROUBLES.

History of the Proceedings at Montreal—Judge Coursol's Extraordinary Conduct—The Feeling in the Province.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

ST. ALBAN'S, Monday, Dec. 19, 1864.

I returned from Montreal on Saturday evening last, where I have been stopping during all the proceedings against the St. Alban's raiders. I propose to give a statement of the whole affair, which can be established by testimony, if necessary, that the public may be put in possession of the facts, and the Government may know that treaty stipulations have been disregarded.

After the raid on the 19th of October, Judge COURSOL was appointed by the Canadian Government to assist the Government Police force in apprehending the raiders. Fourteen were apprehended, principally by our own citizens, and large sums of money found in their possession, which was delivered over to the local magistrates in the county.

The Canadian Government, learning this, specially appointed Judge COURSOL to look after the papers, and conduct the investigation, with the assistance of the crown officers. This Judge ordered the men transferred to Montreal for the purposes of the investigation, and the local magistrates were summoned before him. In a few instances, when questions arose as to the correctness of papers, this Judge telegraphed the Attorney-General for advice and in no instance was there any disagreement between them. He then assured parties claiming extradition and the moneys, that the proceedings were correct, and that as far as he was concerned, it would not become him to discharge the men upon matters which would involve such important international questions, but that he would leave the case in such a condition that those questions might be determined by the highest tribunals of the Province.

Now, let us contrast this Judge's conduct with his statements and assurances voluntarily made. On the 15th of November the case was postponed until the 13th of December, 1864, for the express purpose of sending messengers to Richmond to procure the Confederate commissions of the prisoners. One of the three messengers was a Federal spy, and of course they got no commissions from him, and the other two might as well have been, for they met with no better success. The commissions were not procured.

On the 13th inst. the trial was resumed. An objection was interposed that this Judge had no jurisdiction in the matter, on the ground that the act of 1861, amending the act which gave effect to the treaty in the first instance, had not been sanctioned by the proclamation of Her Majesty the Queen, and that this was indispensable. The counsel for the United States assured the Judge that it had been sanctioned, and that all the proceeding in this case were correct, and the objection was without foundation. Judge COURSOL remarked that it was a very "grave question," and that he wished until 2 o'clock to examine the case and make up his opinion.

At 2 o'clock this stipendiary magistrate came into court. The room was crowded to its utmost capacity with rebel sympathizers. The Judge proceeded to deliver a very lengthy opinion, which could not have taken less than a day to have prepared. He sustained the objection, and declared the act of Parliament which conflicted with his decision unconstitutional and void. He went so far as to answer arguments which he anticipated would be raised by the prosecution, but which were not, and finally closed by discharging the prisoners upon the complaint then before him, as well as in five other complaints which he had never heard. The counsel for the United States entreated him not to dispose of the case in such a precipitate manner, as it would reflect upon his reputation, as well as that of the Provinces, and assured him that he was in error in regard to the amended act not having been sanctioned, and proposed to convince him of the fact by producing the proclamation. The Judge said he could not listen to arguments upon his judgment. He said that he had been aware of the fact that the proceedings were wrong from the beginning. The counsel for the United States then criticized His Honor's conduct in the matter, whereupon he threatened to arrest him for contempt of court, and abruptly left the court-room amidst the wildest enthusiasm on the part of SANDERS, WISCOTT and many other sympathizers. On retiring, he remarked that the prisoners were at liberty to go where they pleased, when the applause was renewed, and the prisoners were literally carried out of the court-room in the arms of their friends. Never was there a more disgraceful proceeding enacted in any court of justice.

On leaving the court-house, arrangements were completed for conveying the raiders to different parts of the city, and secreting them. About this time it was announced that LAMOTHE, the Chief of Police, had given up the stolen moneys to the raiders. Then arose a spirit of indignation even in the minds of those who had before been their friends. People did not credit it at first, but it was impossible to dispute the fact. They inquired, What does it mean? Who has committed such a blunder? Have the officers of justice been bribed?

Another warrant was issued by Judge SMITH, of the Superior Court, on the complaint of your correspondent. The Chief of Police, LAMOTHE, was applied to, to execute it, but declined until he could have an hour to make up his mind. Application was made to the Sheriff, who kindly consented to take it, but said his efforts would be fruitless without the police force under LAMOTHE. He accordingly applied to LAMOTHE for help, but was refused. He thereupon secured the assistance of six Government police officers, and started in pursuit of the "birds in the bush." Thus "the strong arm of the law" was completely paralyzed, and those murderers and robbers were suffered to escape with their booty.

A conspiracy in the whole matter was now very apparent, in which the Judge and the Chief of Police were directly implicated.

On the same evening the City Council met for the purpose of investigating into the conduct of their Chief. The matter was referred to the "Police Committee" for investigation, which is now going on. It has appeared in evidence that the Chief of Police knew the day before the decision that the prisoners were to be discharged, and had conspired with GEORGE N. SANDERS and JOHN PORTERFIELD, Southern refugees, to deliver up the money then deposited in the Ontario Bank, after banking hours; that he was directed to do so by order of Judge COURSOL, after judgment which Judge COURSOL claims, under oath, that there was a conspiracy to rescue the prisoners, if they had not been given up by Judge COURSOL; that JOHN PORTERFIELD had been requested by BENNETT H. YOUNG to assist them in their escape; that money and clothing had been furnished the raiders with a view to their escape, and that PORTERFIELD took the carpet-bag containing the moneys from the Ontario Bank, by the written orders of Chief LAMOTHE, who has since resigned his office.

While under examination, PORTERFIELD claimed that he should not be required to answer questions tending to criminate other parties. It is confidently asserted that men of character in and out of the legal profession will be implicated in the transaction.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of the city will be called immediately, to denounce the Judge and all his conspirators.

The tide is setting against the Southern sympathizers and refugees in the city. This affair has driven the last nail in the Reciprocity coffin. It will subject the Canadas to heavy expenditures in defending the frontier from future acts of violence like those perpetrated in this village. It has already resulted in issuing a proclamation calling Parliament together on the 19th of January, 1865, for the purpose of providing a strong military force on the frontier, to preserve neutrality.

These expenditures will fall upon the honest yeomen and industrious mechanics of the Province, and I venture to predict that in less than six months the people of Canada will regret the day that they ever extended the hand of hospitality to such ungrateful recipients, whose sole design is to embroil them in warfare. LEX.

WARREN'S GREAT RAID.

A Triumphant March of Ninety Miles—Twenty Miles of Railroad Track and Four Bridges Destroyed—Immense Destruction of Property—The Weldon Railroad in Ruins—Safe Return of the Raiders—The Orders—Arrival at Sussex Court-house.

From Our Own Correspondent.

[Owing to a delay in the transmission of our packages, and the great press upon our columns, the following letters have hitherto been crowded out. We publish them to day as they afford a graphic idea of the recent movement against the Weldon Railroad.]

SUSSEX COURT-HOUSE, Va.,
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1864—9 P. M.

We have to-day embarked on an expedition that bids fair to be one of the most important and successful movements among the many that have been undertaken during the present operations in progress against Richmond. We are going to seize the Weldon Railroad, beyond Stony Creek Station, where it crosses the Nottaway River, and fully expect to tear, burn and otherwise destroy several miles of that important road, thus rendering it totally useless to the enemy, either for the transportation of troops or supplies. The expedition is under the command of Major-Gen. GOVERNEUR K. WARREN, and consists of the entire Fifth Corps, with Gen. MOTT's division of the Second Corps, and Gen. GREGG's division of cavalry, the Artillery Brigade belonging to the Fifth Corps, and two-horse batteries. To-night closes thus far our first day's successful progress toward the final completion of our gigantic undertaking. Now that the head of our column is filing out into the neighboring fields for camp, I sit down to write out our experiences.

PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS.

On Sunday morning, the Army of the Potomac was perfectly electrified by the announcement of the arrival of the Sixth Corps, from the Shenadoah Valley, and, naturally enough, a thousand rumors were speedily in circulation. The usual wild and exaggerated reports were repeated, and so often, that the originators almost believed them themselves. From fiction we soon relapsed into fact, and then found that the Fifth Corps were to be relieved from their intrenched position by the newly arrived corps, and that Gen. WARREN's command was ordered to mass in the rear of our central position, near the Jerusalem plank-road. Dame Rumor, ever busy in an army, became doubly excited, and, with her fabled thousand tongues, completely bewildered and mystified everybody.

The general impression was that a gigantic scheme of operations was on foot, but what the precise programme was no one seemed able to determine. It is needless to repeat the various surmises of the troops; they may easily be imagined, for every conceivable idea was set forth. It will be necessary, however, to recapitulate the actual orders and preparations, in order to give your readers a proper idea of the scope and aim of the movement.

As fast as the different divisions of the Sixth Corps arrived on the cars from City Point, Gen. WARREN's corps was relieved from its position on our formidable lines of intrenchments, and on Monday and Tuesday were quietly and speedily marched to their newly-selected position, pitching open camp in the fields and woods beyond our rear lines of pickets—the Sixth Corps, Gen. WRIGHT, meanwhile taking up position on our front.

RECEPTION OF ORDERS.

Last night, Tuesday, while lying in open bivouac, and sagely wondering what we were going to do, the long looked for and eagerly anticipated orders arrived, and then we learned for the first time the precise nature of the projected movement, and the actual plan of operations in contemplation.

From those queer little bits of tissue-paper, circulating among the different staffs, it was ascertained that Gens. GRIFFIN's, AYRES' and CRAWFORD's divisions, comprising the Fifth Corps, with the Third Division (Gen. MOTT) of the Second Corps and the artillery brigade of the Fifth Corps, would comprise the main body of the projected expedition. An additional column of cavalry and two-horse batteries, under command of Gen. GREGG, and consisting of three brigades, was also placed at the disposal of Gen. WARREN.

The object of the expedition was the complete destruction of the Weldon Railroad, and to so thoroughly accomplish the work as to preclude any further efforts of the enemy to make any actual use of it, or to derive any absolute benefit therefrom. We were to move down the plank road toward Jerusalem, until we reached the Sussex road; then crossing the Nottaway River, push on through Sussex Court-house, and so on to the Weldon Railroad. On reaching the railroad, the work of destruction was to commence, and be carried out to as great an extent as possible. Four days' rations were to be issued to the troops and sixty rounds of ball cartridge served out to each man. A select number of ammunition wagons were to accompany the column, and half the ambulances belonging to the different divisions were ordered out. Forage for six days was to be carried in the trains and two days' small rations for the troops were also to go forward. A flying train of canvass pontoons was also to form a component part of this novel and gigantic raiding expedition. Twenty thousand muskets and four thousand sabres would be about the actual strength of the entire raiding column.

THE START.

It was intended for the cavalry to put out on the road, in advance, about 2 o'clock this morning, and for the infantry to take up their line of march at 5 A. M. Owing to unavoidable delays the cavalry were nearly three hours behind time, but they struck off to the left in the direction of Lee's Mills, and by a rapid detour gained the advance. Contrary to usual custom no bugles were sounded and scarcely any drums beat, in rousing the troops. The morning was dark and drear, and as Gen. CRAWFORD's division moved out in advance of the infantry column, the air gave portentous signs of a storm. Silently but rapidly the troops got into motion, and as I stood at the junction of the plank and Lee's Mills road the scene was an exciting one. The dark masses of infantry hurrying across the fields, seeming like fitful shadows in the darkness before day, and it needed the hoarse commands of the officers and the eternal jingling of accoutrements to make the spectator believe that the long black lines he saw moving were serried masses of living men. Regiment after regiment, and brigade after brigade pushed on, and it was long after the reluctant sun ushered in another day that the rear of the column became fairly in motion.

While the infantry were pushing up the hill and on the plank road the cavalry were galloping up their route to the left. The ringing of their horses hoofs and the crashing of their sabres causing stirring music to the otherwise hushed and almost silent scene. As day broke I mounted my horse and rode forward to the head of the column.

ON THE ROAD.

As I neared the fluttering pennon of Gen. BAXTER's brigade, whose command formed the advance guard, I found that the road was a very fine one, and in capital condition. The sun rose bright and clear, and the day at first promised to be a good one for the movement of troops, but it proved deceitful. Just as I caught up to the head of the column it reached the first obstruction. The bridge crossing Warwick Swamp had been destroyed, and I found Gen. CRAWFORD's pioneers busily engaged in laying down a rude tramway of logs for the further progress of the expedition. Gen. WARREN, as usual with that indefatigable officer, was personally superintending the work, and by his presence caused a greater speed in the manufacture of the structure.

As soon as the tramway was completed, the column moved on, and we left Gen. WARREN and his engineers engaged in rebuilding the broken bridge for the passage of the trains. When the head of the Fifth Corps reached the "Proctor Farm," we found the rear of the cavalry debouching from the left into our road, and the temporary halt, caused by our having to wait for the road, was taken advantage of to mass the troops for rest and to close up the command in proper shape.

Here we found our worst fears realized, for like all previous movements of the Army of the Potomac, a drizzling rain commenced falling, and the customary prophecies of failure could be heard on every side. But the road was too good for any rain of a day's duration to harm, and so on we pushed, regardless of consequences.

Owing to the heavy loads carried by the men in their knapsacks, the march was a painful and very toilsome one. But the best of good nature and patience was evinced by all. The peculiarity of the move, its novelty, and the utter recklessness of the whole scheme, pleased the men, and they seemed determined to do their share of the work without complaint. The troops were moved with great rapidity—so much so that they kept well closed up to the cavalry. Despite the rain and the chilly air, the different divisions kept in almost constant motion until they reached the Nottaway. Gen. CRAWFORD's division had the advance, Gen. GRIFFIN's came next, with Gen. MOTT bringing up the rear. Gen. AYRES' division had charge of the trains.

MASSING FOR THE BRIDGE.

At 12 o'clock the infantry advance reached Freeman's Tavern, (sometimes called Hawkinsville,) at the junction of the Sussex and Jerusalem roads. Here we found the cavalry massed and cooking dinner, the river having been found impassable for horses, and the bridge burned. Several horses were drowned in attempting to cross, but fortunately their riders succeeded in gaining the bank in safety. As the infantry came up they closed up in mass by brigades, for the treble purpose of resting, dinner, and awaiting the laying down of the pontoon bridge. Orders were sent back to the engineer train to hurry to the front, and after a short delay it made its appearance and pushed on for the river. While the bridge was being laid the troops built fires with the convenient fence rails, and with the aid of a little fire and a great deal of smoke, succeeded in providing themselves with the never-failing and indispensable coffee.

CROSSING THE RIVER.

In thirty minutes the bridge was laid, and the cavalry scuttered across, pushing on and holding the road to Sussex Court-house. At 4 o'clock the division of Gen. CRAWFORD commenced crossing, and succeeded in clearing the bridge by dark. The cavalry then filed out into the road and took possession of the Court-house. Gen. CRAWFORD brought up his command and massed in the immediate vicinity, both himself and Gen. GREGG establishing their headquarters in the town. Orders were issued for the men to lie down behind their stacks and be in instant readiness for any movement that might be considered advisable or necessary. Gen. GRIFFIN is now crossing the river and will encamp below.

SUSSEX COURT-HOUSE.

is about four miles from the Nottaway, and consists of the court-house and four or five dwellings of a superior kind, and the tavern, or house of entertainment. Several outbuildings and sheds are attached to this latter edifice, and accommodation for an immense number of animals is visible. The whole attraction in the place consists of the court-house and jail. It is built of brick, and is very substantial and imposing. Behind the court-house is a gallows, and the dread structure has been calculated for a triple sacrifice to the requirements of justice. From documents found in the place I learn that a semi-weekly mail passes through the town, and I have in my satchel a queer collection of Post-office orders and proclamations issued by the "so-called" Confederate States of America.

Very few citizens are visible, and those who can be found all declare that they are not Confederate soldiers, evidently fearing harsh treatment to soldiers of the rebel army. Some of these men are very old. One, named HARGREAVES, told me he had been a Colonel in the Mexican war.

The night is a beautiful one, being quite warm and clear, and we have been marching by the bright moonlight. The camp fires are now gleaming brightly as the troops lie down to sleep. Everything so far is brilliantly successful, and our advance has made a march of twenty miles. In all probability we will move forward long before daylight, so I wrap myself in my blanket to sleep in preparation for the road to-morrow.

G. F. W.

Pushing on for the Railroad—Coman's Well—Beautiful Country—Seizing the Railroad Bridge—Destruction of the Road.

BIVOUAC NEAR WELDON RAILROAD,
CHAMBLISS FARM,
Thursday, Dec. 8, 1864—11 P. M.

THE SECOND DAY'S MARCH.

At 3 o'clock this morning the troops were silently awakened and warned for the march. The pitchy darkness was soon illuminated by the campfires of the troops as they prepared their frugal and hasty breakfast. The air gave good promise of a bright, warm day, and, for a wonder, it was fully realized. About 4 o'clock the cavalry moved out, and were speedily followed by the Third Division of the Fifth Corps, it having again the advance, owing to the inability of the other divisions to cross the river and close up last night. Nothing of any great moment occurred during the first dark hours of the day's march; but the rear of the column was rapidly pushed forward, and soon closed up with the advance. An ammunition wagon accidentally upsetting on the bridge last night, partially sank the pontoons, and it was impossible for the entire force to cross until this morning.

THE SCENERY—COMAN'S WELL.

All along our route to-day, we were delighted with the beautiful scenery through which we passed. The roads were all good, but very sandy. Several churches were passed, and some very elegant residences. As usual with the passage of a large body of troops, a great deal of damage was done to property—the turnip patches suffered, and corn fodder disappeared amazingly. In some instances our stragglers committed some very reprehensible acts of destruction. Strenuous efforts were, however, made to repress any of that lawless feeling so common in an army. Like yesterday's progress, we found the greater part of the houses along our line of march perfectly deserted, though where the people could have disappeared to appeared a mystery. Everything seemed hurriedly abandoned, and it was no uncommon thing to find the hearths still warm.

After a rapid march, with but few halts, of some eight miles, we found ourselves in Coman's Well, a pretty little place of some half dozen houses, a church, a store, and a dignified looking house of public resort. The place was closely surrounded by the densely-grown forest, and it appeared quite as much surprised at finding itself hid away in the woods as we were. The cavalry had evidently been paying their respects to the poultry, judging from the wildness of the few remaining. The proprietor of "the store" was in a terrible pucker about his goods, and implored a guard. He got one, of course, but the stock no doubt suffered despite that precaution. This man amused the General a good deal by asking for a guard to be placed over his daughter, who had been asked for a kiss by some rollicking cavalryman. Although the young lady seemed to enjoy the joke, the "old man" evidently "couldn't see it."

I got into conversation with a Mr. FREEMAN, at this place, and found him to be the proprietor of the tavern near where we crossed the Nottaway. He had some fifty slaves, and told me that "it was right costly" to support them, but he could not think of letting them go. He only hugged the incubus the more. On being asked if he was an Union man, he replied that he went with his State, and that was all we could get out of him. Coman's Well was originally a place of some resort for the people of this section, and the "Well" itself had at one time quite a local reputation for its medicinal properties.

SEIZING THE RAILROAD.

Soon after leaving Coman's Well, considerable cannonading could be heard in front, and as it continued at intervals I galloped on to learn its cause. After a long stern chase of some five miles, I came up with the cavalry, and found Gen. GREGG throwing out two brigades toward the Nottaway Bridge, where the Weldon Railroad crosses the river of that name. Shelling the woods as he advanced, Gen. GREGG moved cautiously forward, and eventually pushed on and burned the railroad bridge. The structure itself was a very dilapidated sort of affair, having been clumsily repaired at different times. However, our cavalry put it soon beyond all repair, and it now lies in the river, a mass of charred timber.

One brigade of cavalry defiled out of the fields by the bridge on to the railroad track, and, as they passed up the road, partially destroyed the ties and track. Meanwhile the other two brigades beat up and down the various roads in search of the enemy that was believed to be in the vicinity. Nothing, however, could be found beyond a few straggling railroad guards and vedettes.

By this time the head of our infantry column made its appearance up the Halifax road, and began massing on the Chambliss Farm. We learned that the firing that had been heard in the rear, and which was supposed to be the enemy attacking on our flank, was some of our own cavalrymen who had been indulging too freely in "apple-jack." At this time everything looked very much like a fight, but as the day wore away, affairs settled down very quietly. GRIFFIN, AYRES and MOTT brought up their commands, the latter division guarding the trains, and thus we had the entire expedition well in hand.

BURNING THE RAILROAD.

At dusk the movement against the railroad commenced. Gen. AYRES was ordered to take his division through the fields to the railroad, his right resting on the river. He was to form along the road, extending his line down the track, with his left connecting with Gen. CRAWFORD, some two miles further on. Gen. GRIFFIN's division was to move up the Halifax road on to the railroad, where it strikes that point, thus leaving a gap of some two miles for Gen. CRAWFORD's division, who was to follow GRIFFIN for a mile and then push across the open fields for his allotted position, Gen. MOTT continued in charge of the trains.

The three columns moved simultaneously and arrived at their different portions of the line about eight o'clock P. M., and were soon briskly engaged in the work of destruction. Throwing pickets out in front, the Fifth Corps set themselves to the immense task of destroying six miles of railroad in a single night. Tearing up the track by main strength, and overturning it, they then tore it apart and piling the ties up at intervals, set them on fire. The rails, with a great deal of difficulty, were broken asunder, owing to the strong manner in which they were riveted together, and then placed on top of the blazing ties. In this manner the rails were warped beyond redemption.

The scene at this moment was one not easily forgotten, a continuous path of living fire ran up and down for six long miles. The dark and moving figures of the men, as they danced and worked round the bonfires, shone out amid the blaze like demons in their fiery element, and I doubt not the Confederates consider us fiends for this night's work. I feel my pen is inadequate to do justice to the spectacle that is at this moment laid out at my feet. Suffice it to say, that the moon's silvery light paled before the dread brilliancy of the line of fire, and that the heavens were lighted far and near by the reflection of the blazing road.

As I write, the work is almost completed, and the men are now falling in for the bivouac of the night, leaving to the flames the utter destruction of the road. The men seemed greatly pleased at their task, and went through with it with alacrity. A cold northeast wind is fast springing up, and the night-air, already cold, bids fair to be of a still lower temperature. To-morrow we intend continuing the tearing up of the road, but it is impossible to say how far we can go, as we learn that HILL's corps is moving down on our flank.

G. F. W.

Continuation of the Work of Destruction—A Hard Day's Work—The Fight at Belfield.

BIVOUAC NEAR HICK'S FORD, MEHERRIN RIVER,
Va., Friday, Dec. 9, 1864—6 P. M.

THE ROUTE OF DEVASTATION.

To-day, we have been from daylight until now busily and assiduously engaged in still further destroying the Weldon Railroad, and the day has been one of great toil to the men. Heavy masses of smoke lay all day banked up against the sky, and marked with their heavy and rolling clouds the fiery path our army is leaving behind its onward progress. Several houses and barns, with grain, were also burned.

This morning Gen. GRIFFIN moved his division by the left flank, and took up a new position along the still uninjured portion of the railroad, and at once set to work destroying that section of the track. Gen. MOTT, leaving the trains in GRIFFIN's charge, moved down the road and continued his line on the left of the First Division, also tearing and burning the road. In like manner Gens. AYRES and CRAWFORD moved on, and by 10 o'clock the entire command was engaged in the work of devastation; and Gen. GRIFFIN, having finished his first portion of the track, moved down to the extreme left of CRAWFORD, again leaving a gap. As each division exhausted its allotted portion, it moved down to the left, until Gen. CRAWFORD's division again became the extreme right. He then extended his operations to the gap left by GRIFFIN, and thus completed the chain.

THE SKIRMISH FOR THE FORD.

The cavalry, meanwhile, pushed down to the Meherrin River, and found that a small body of rebel cavalry were in possession of the wagon and railroad bridges across that stream. Moving forward a cloud of skirmishers, the bridges were gained, when the first was found to have been cut, and our men soon set the other in flames. The rebels had a funny little piece in position, but as soon as a section of DENISON's battery unlimbered and threw a couple of shells among them, they ran away and abandoned the gun.

Owing to the deepness of the river, it was impossible to gain possession of the piece before they recovered courage enough to come back and carry it off. While the cavalry were settling their little family quarrel, I rode up to a house near the river, and on entering, found it, as usual, quite deserted. Breakfast was still on the table, and a very plain and frugal repast it seemed. The house was pretty well furnished, had a piano and a carpet down in the "best room." A daguerreotype, of the master of the house evidently, was hung over the fireplace. Looking over the book of piano-music, I came across a piece of rebel composition, and on the table a Confederate novel. I seized the contraband articles and held them as trophies of war. Out-doors the cavalry were playing sad havoc among the feathered denizens of the farm-yard.

THE FIGHT AT BELFIELD.

The only fight of any importance during our entire progress thus far took place about an hour ago at Belfield, a mile beyond the Meherrin River. The First Brigade of GREGG's cavalry crossed on the pontoon-bridge, or rather the repaired one that already existed at the ford, and pushed on for Belfield. Here it was supposed that a large force of the enemy would be found, as we learned that the rebels had sent down two trains the day before yesterday heavily laden with Confederate troops. A slight breastwork was found a short distance from the ford, which was easily carried, and when the cavalry reached the village another line of earthworks showed itself. In charging this our men lost three killed and several wounded. Among the killed was Maj. SARGENT, of the First Massachusetts Cavalry. Darkness setting in, prevented our men from taking advantage of the successful results of their charge. Considerable cannonading was indulged in, however, by our side, and it is going on now in the immediate vicinity of the fords.

CAMPING FOR THE NIGHT.

Up to this time everybody fully believed that we were eventually bound for Weldon itself, especially as our advance is not much over eighteen miles from that place. We have been so successful thus far that our men deem anything possible, and look forward to their entry into Weldon with evident relish. The dread subject, however, of rations will, no doubt decide Gen. WARREN to stop where he is, and then retrace his steps homeward for the Army of the Potomac. To-morrow night our rations in hand will run out, and, although the men have been allowed to forage all they could off the country, a half-ration will be issued to-night, to enable the men to make a comfortable supper. If we go on to Weldon we may not be able to get the necessary supplies. At all events, it is pretty generally understood among the knowing ones, that we take up our line of march for Petersburg in the morning, and it looks a very sensible proceeding at the present writing. A fast-falling rain is now drenching our tents and blankets, and the atmosphere is very cold.

G. F. W.

Homeward Bound—A Terrible Day's March—Forests of Ice—Sufferings of the Men—Apple-jack and Its Effects—The Stragglers.

BIVOUAC NEAR SUSSEX COURT-HOUSE, Va.,
Saturday, Dec. 10, 1864.

THE RETURN MARCH.

At early dawn this morning the army was aroused and ordered for the road, the further intelligence soon gaining ground that we were going back. The rain last night was a fearfully cold one, and the water froze as it fell, casing everything in a sheet of ice. Every twig and branch, every leaf and blade of withered grass was covered with a thick coating of ice. We suddenly seemed transported to arctic lands, where the very woods were formed of icicles. Many of the men complained of suffering, during the night, of cold, and the horses and mules endured great hardships. Soon after daylight the trains moved out in advance, following the Second Brigade of cavalry, who took the extreme advance. Gen. GRIFFIN's division formed the guard to the trains.

The other two brigades of cavalry moved down the railroad to Jarratt Station, (the way we came up,) and thence followed up our old road. They found a large body of the enemy formed in line of battle, with a piece of artillery in position in the road. The rebels finding that they could not entrap our cavalry, gave the thing up in disgust, and made our shell practice an excuse for retiring. The cavalry then rejoined the main column at the fork of the two roads just beyond our present camp.

The main body moved by the Sussex Court House Road, which place, the guide-posts told us, was twenty miles distant from the railroad. Gen. AYRES followed GRIFFIN, and was followed in turn by MOTT. Gen. CRAWFORD brought up the rear, having the Second New-York Mounted Rifles also under his command.

THE BAD ROADS.

The road was in an awful condition, the rain of the previous night having completely soddened the soil. The wagons and artillery found great difficulty in passing, and the troops suffered greatly from the depth and tenacity of the mud. The day was also cold, and the icy appearance of the landscape made the coolness of the air doubly visible. This latter feature was an extraordinary one. The feathery tufts of pine, the thick and massy foliage of the cedar, the wax-like and prickly leaves of the holly, and the withered and shaking leaves of the oak,—all were thickly cased in ice, and the effect was picturesque in the extreme. The twigs and branches, the grass and trunks of trees, alike received a coating of glittering ice. Every passing wind shook down a shower of icy particles and made the woods vocal with the ever-recurring sounds. The roads themselves were mostly one great sea of mud and slush, often knee-deep.

PROGRESS OF THE MARCH.

During the first part of the day's march, I was with the advance cavalry, and we had a very exciting time of it. At every bye road and nearly every house, a slight skirmish would take place. Sometimes our advance guard would succeed in capturing a rebel,—half citizen, half soldier, whole guerrilla,—and generally found such gentry in the possession of shot-guns and a horse, frequently with the addition of a revolver in his breast. It appeared strange that these fellows did not destroy the numerous bridges over which we were compelled to pass. In one instance only did they attempt to obstruct our passage, and then their efforts were confined to felling a single tree. As it was we were extremely fortunate in finding all the planks in their places as we came to the different streams and marshes on our route.

APPLE-JACK.

All along our line of march the Provost-guard visited every house in the vicinity of the road, and made rigorous search for the terrible liquor known in these parts as "Apple-Jack" or apple brandy. I do not care to be precise in making an estimate of the amount of this liquor destroyed by the mounted Provost-guard during to-day's march, but I know that I am below the mark when I say that over two hundred barrels of this Virginia arrack was summarily emptied out on the ground.

It was astonishing what an immense trade is carried on seemingly by the inhabitants of this section in this fiery and abominable spirit. In some instances we found thirty barrels of this extraordinary stuff in a single cellar. Nearly every house had its mill for grinding the apples or peaches and the necessary worm for distilling the fiery liquid. The effect this liquor has on the imbiber is extraordinary. It usually sets the unfortunate man perfectly crazy as regards his conduct and speech, at first, then leaves him in a dead sort of stupor, close resembling death in its outward form. At this stage the victim sinks down in a sort of lethargy from which it is generally impossible to awaken him.

A VISIT.

During one of the numerous halts made by the cavalry, I accompanied the Provost-Marshal on a domiciliary visit paid by him and his escort to the house of a citizen. A horse and a double-barreled gun were found at this house, and the two were forthwith seized, and the man of the house at once sent forward to the General, under escort. The people had a lot of apple-jack on hand, and the barrels were speedily knocked in the head, and the valuable (?) liquor spilt on the ground. They had also been preparing a lot of fine fat pork for the Winter's consumption. It all lay on a rude sort of table, in the yard, and had already been plentifully sprinkled with salt. If your readers could have seen the rapidity with which that lot of pork disappeared, they would have gained a very good idea of the speed of the telegraph.

While the hog meat was being carried off, the old lady of the house occupied her time in declaring that she was a Union woman—that she was for the North and for the South—and she hoped that they (the Yankees) would not hang her husband. When she found that her meat had gone the way of all flesh, and that there was no especial danger threatening her husband, she ceased, and no more Union sentiments could we get out of her. A nice looking young woman, who was dressed in a most distracting manner in some sort of blue zou-zou jacket, was very anxious to impress upon your dignified-looking correspondent—who evidently passed for a General—that she was an orphan and no relation to the family, "only he is my father in-law," said she. On being asked bluntly if her husband was in the rebel army, she rather oddly replied that she was not married. I asked her how she could have the old gentleman for a father-in-law if she was not married, and she then acknowledged that her spouse had been conscripted. Giving them sage advice not to kill any more hogs when Yankees were about, we left and soon were hammering away at another lot of apple-jack barrels.

COVERING THE RETREAT.

On going back during the afternoon to the rear of the column I had an opportunity of judging of the great length of the line of march. I should think it to be six miles long. The rear guard were having quite an exciting time of it, owing to the presence of a body of rebel cavalry, who were hovering on our flanks and rear. Together with the difficult and unpleasant task of driving up the stragglers, that the terrible state of the roads and the confounded apple-jack made unavoidable, the rear of the expedition was anything but an agreable part of the column. Halting every now and then and paying a few well merited compliments to the Johnnies in the shape of shell and a few bullets, Gen. BAXTER brought his brigade slowly and steadily up. Gen. CRAWFORD also paid personal attention to the execution of this important duty.

The pioneer corps of this division (CRAWFORD's,) did a great amount of labor, both on the advance and the retreat. Capt. CHESTER and his assistants were untiring in their exertions. During our retreat of to-day every bridge was destroyed after the rear of our column had passed over. In fact the entire staff of Gen. CRAWFORD's division did a large amount of extra duty, owing to their command being constantly on the advance going out and the rear coming in.

THE STRAGGLERS.

As night drew on its sable garments the difficulty of pushing on this large number of stragglers became two-fold. But as the camp fires ahead began to enliven the sky their light put fresh vigor into dispairing limbs, and dead men suddenly sprung into life, and the lame recovered their limbs. But the victims to apple-jack were past recovery. I saw several instances where men were lying seemingly dead under the effects of this abominable stuff. I myself was compelled to leave a poor fellow on the road to Richmond—if not death—first breaking his musket over a convenient stump, and many similar instances occurred during the day.

AN AMBUSCADE.

Just before reaching camp, Gen. CRAWFORD determined to teach the rebels a lesson, and for that purpose, laid an ambush in a thick wood. Placing two of his regiments in the wood, their lines of fires running oblique with the wood, he then ordered the Second New-York Cavalry to retreat on the gallop when the rebel cavalry again made their appearance. This was done, and the trick succeeded admirably; for some seventy of the rebels rushed in after what they fondly believed an easy prey, when they were met by a galling fire from the hidden infantry, and scarcely a single horseman escaped, and nearly all the horses were killed or captured.

DESTROYING PROPERTY.

Several mills were burnt during our progress, and the men frequently extended the operation to some outhouse or barns, but nothing else of any great moment occurred during our march so far. The night is not exactly cold, but it is terribly wet and sloppy under foot, making a very disagreeable prospect while getting our bivouac beds in proper shape. Everybody's blanket is wet, also, and no fire seems hot enough to dry it. We (the rear) are now six miles from Sussex Court-house, while the cavalry advance occupy the place, and Gen. WARREN's headquarters is there also. We are to start again at daylight, and the order of march remains the same.

G. F. W.

Passing Sussex Court-house—Murder of Our Soldiers—Retaliation by Our Men—Burning Houses and Lurid Flames—Recrossing the Nottaway—Getting Into Camp—The Ninth Corps.

BIVOUAC NEAR PELICAN CHURCH,
JERUSALEM PLANK-ROAD, Va.,
Sunday, Dec. 11, 1864.

I remained with the rear of the column nearly all day to-day, and did so, expecting a fight somewhere in the vicinity of the Court-house, but my anticipations were not realized. The troops moved very slowly indeed, and were all day getting across the river Nottaway. The roads continued bad, and our progress was very laborious. When Gen. BRAGG's brigade, holding the rear position, reached the Briggs House, we found Gen. HOFFMAN's brigade lying in line of battle in support. Gen. WARREN was also here, and he ordered Gen. CRAWFORD's division to halt and draw rations. This was to give as much time as possible to the stragglers, who were coming slowly ahead of Gen. DAVIES' brigade of cavalry. At 1 o'clock P. M. the division was brought up to resist an expected attack, Gen. BAXTER's brigade being retired behind the woods in support of the battery. The wagons and pack train being sent to the river to await our coming.

The pioneers were then brought up and several trees made ready for falling across the road as an obstacle. A couple of pieces from PHILLIPS' battery were also unlimbered on the brow of the hill, and a few shells thrown into the woods. No response, however, was elicited, and the trees were felled and the line slowly fell back. Mrs. BRIGGS, poor lady, was terribly excited over the prospect of a fight, but became quiet when assured by Gen. WARREN that he was certain that no battle was contemplated. A few rebels showed themselves in the edge of the woods, but a couple of shells soon gave them the hint to leave.

MURDERED SOLDIERS.

Again and again did the rear brigades form in line of battle, but no demonstration was made by the enemy. We cleared the Court-house at 2 P. M., and left the cavalry behind, who afterward repassed us near the river. A melancholy evidence of the brutality of the guerrillas was found in the woods, being the mangled remains of three of our men who, having straggled during our forward march, were taken prisoners by the citizens, and foully murdered. The unfortunate men were all shot through the head, and one of them had his forehead beaten in with the butt of a musket. The bodies were all stripped—only one having a shirt on. The bodies were interred by our men, who swore revenge on guerrillas in general. A good deal of talk was had about hanging three of the captured citizens, and it was remarked that the gallows would just accommodate that number; but no one was hung, although it is generally reported so in the army.

RETALIATION.

Our men took the law into their own hands, so far as destroying dwellings and buildings were concerned. From the Court-house to the river, not a single house, nor even a shed, stands; all lie a heap of smouldering ashes. The conflagration was both effectual and complete. The men had become so accustomed to destroy property along the railroad that it became second nature for them to speedily reduce the different residences to ashes.

RECROSSING THE RIVER.

At 4 P. M. CRAWFORD reached the river and found Gen. MOTT waiting for him to cross the bridge. This was speedily accomplished, and he was quickly followed by the division of Gen. MOTT. Thus the entire expedition safely recrossed the Nottaway and the success of the undertaking is a fixed fact. We found, on getting on this side of the river, that a division of the Ninth Corps had been sent down to our support, and that they had caught the fiery infection from us and had burnt Freeman's Tavern, on account of finding a man buried in the cellar and three guerrillas concealed in the house.

The camps are now being established and the different divisions are bivouacking for the night along the Jerusalem plank-road, preparatory for an early start for our lines in front of Petersburgh in the morning. Great fires can be seen ahead, and they tell us of houses being burned, but by whom it is difficult to say. The night is again extremely cold and windy.

G. F. W.

Safe Return of the Raiders—Camped Within the Old Lines—Terrible Cold Weather.

WITHIN THE LINES OF THE ARMY OF THE
POTOMAC, Va., Monday, Dec. 12, 1864.

As soon as I had breakfast I mounted and galloped the best part of my way into our old lines, passing during my ride of the ten miles the entire command, and reaching our rear pickets at the same time as the head of the column did. The weather is very cold, and despite my rough exercise, I was obliged several times to dismount and warm my almost perished limbs. Nearly all the horsemen in the column were afoot, the Generals and their staffs preferring pedestrianism seemingly to a cold slow ride on horseback.

The men moved in rapidly, and without much trouble, evidently glad to reach their old camps in safety. The different divisions are now quietly massed and gone into camp. We have just learned for the first time that the division of the Second Corps, commanded by Gen. MILES, had gone out last Saturday, and had an engagement on Hatcher's Run.

From being in an almost unsettled country it appeared strange to come into a section so completely stripped of timber as our interior lines are in front of Petersburgh, but yet it seems like home after all.

That the movement against the Weldon Railroad is a grand success, no one will dare to deny. Twenty miles of railroad track completely torn up and destroyed, four bridges—one on the Nottoway, one across a wide marsh, one on Three Mile Creek, and the fourth on the Meherrin River. Two stations burnt, and all with only a list of some 13 killed, 40 wounded, and less than three hundred missing. The immense amount of liquor obtainable on the route will account for the greater portion of the last item. Everything is quiet along our lines.

GEO. F. WILLIAMS.

MONETARY AFFAIRS.

Sales at the Stock Exchange—DEC. 24, 1864.

$25,000	U. S. 6s, '81 C.	116½	550	N. Y. Cen. R.	115
10,500	U. S. 6s. 5-20s. C.	107¾	100	do	114¾
5,000	do	108⅜	13	Erie Railway	88
50,000	do...new iss.	108	125	do	87⅛
160,000	do...new iss.	108⅛	400	do	87½
8,000	do...new iss.	108⅓	1500	do	87¼
4,000	do...new iss.	108¼	800	do	87⅜
110,000	do...new iss.	108½	100	do...b30	87⅜
10,000	U. S. 5s, 10-40s. R.	100⅞	300	do...s30	87¼
2,000	U. S. 5s, 10-40s. C.	101¼	100	Erie R. Pref.	101
3,000	do	101⅜	300	Hudson R. R.	116
10,000	Trea. N. 7 3-10s, Ap. & Oct.	121	100	do...b10	116
1,000	U. S. 6s, 1 yr. Cer.	96¾	400	Reading R.	114½
28,000	do	96⅞	100	do...b30	115
5,000	do	97	400	do	114⅜
3,000	Ill. War Loan	100	100	Mich. Cen. R.	117⅜
5,000	Mo. State 6s	64	25	M. S. & N. I.	72
2,000	Tenn. 6s, '90	56	100	do	70½
1,000	N. Car. 6s	60	400	do	70¾
25,000	O. & M. Cer.	34	100	Ill. Cen. R.	125¼
20,000	do...b30	34⅛	300	do	125½
3,000	Chi., B. & Q. 8s, 1st M.	120¼	1300	Cle. & Pitts.	94¼
4,000	Mich. So. S. F. Bs.	106	300	Chi. & N. W.	41
8,000	C. & N. W. 1st M.	97	500	do...b30	41¼
7,000	do	97¼	400	do	40⅞
2,000	Erie 1st M. Bs.	104½	100	do	40¾
2,000	P., Ft. W. & C. 1st	112½	100	do...b15	41
50,000	P. Ft. W. & C. 2d.	104	20	Chi. & N. W. Pr.	72½
4,000	Mar. 1st M. B.	97½	100	do	71¾
7	Shoe & Leath. B'k.	108	100	Clev. & Tol. R.	109
50	Fourth Nat. Bank.	96	200	Chi. & R. I. R.	103½
20	Imp. & Traders' Bk.	111	200	do	103¾
400	Canton Co.	35½	100	do...b10	104
100	do...b30	35	400	do	104
5	Del. & Hud. C. Co.	211	100	do...b30	104½
50	Penn. Coal Co.	195	50	C., B., & Q. R.	117
200	Cum. Coal Pr...b30	46	100	Mil. & Pr. Du C.	52
200	Am. Coal Co.	84½	100	New-Jersey Cen.	175
120	Ashburton Coal	19	600	P., Ft. W. & C.	101¾
100	do	18¾	100	do...s15	101½
100	do	19	100	do...s15	101¾
500	Quick. Min.	95	300	do	101⅞
100	do...b30	95½	800	do	102
200	do...b30	95¾	100	do	102¼
400	do...b30	96	100	do...b30	103¼
150	Han. & St. J. R.	30	200	do	102½
			200	Alt. & T. H. Pref.	73
			150	Chi. & Alt.	92

OPEN BOARD—1½ P. M.

300	Erie R.	87½	200	Chic. & R. I.	104½
200	do...s3	87½	100	do	104½
200	do...c	87½	300	do	104⅜
200	do...b30	88	500	Chi. & N. W.	41¼
500	do	87¾	100	do...s3	41¼
200	do...b4	87¾	100	do	41⅜
200	do	87⅝	200	do...b5	41⅜
100	do...s30	87½	100	do...c	41⅜
200	do...b10	88	300	Chic. & N. W. Pr.	71¾
100	Hud. Riv. R.	116	300	P., Ft. W. & C. b10	102¾
100	do...b10	116	100	do	102¾
100	M. S. & N. I.	70¾	100	do	103
400	do	70⅞	300	do...b3	103
200	Clev. & Pitts.	94½	100	do...b4	103
200	do...b5	94⅞	200	do	103½
400	do...b10	95	10,000	O. & Miss. C. b10	34⅜
400	do...b5	95	100	Mar. Min. Co...c	33⅜
200	do	94¾	100	do	33½
200	do	94⅞	200	Reading R. x-d. b10	115
300	do...b30	96			

SATURDAY, Dec. 24—P. M.

The Stock Exchange, the Banks and Insurance Offices, and business generally in Wall-street, adjourned over to Tuesday next, after adjusting accounts for the Holidays, this forenoon. Monday will, therefore, be kept as a close Holiday, though not made strictly or legally so at Bank, this year, as Christmas falls on Sunday. The Custom-house, Post-office and Sub-Treasury Office will be opened only for an hour or two, if at all.

There was a sudden and decided let-up in the demand for Money to-day, as compared with the large amounts offered by lenders. A reaction also quickly followed the pressure of Friday in the Government Stocks, which were 2@2½ ₩ cent. upon the 5-20s; 1@1½ on the 10-40s and 1 ₩ cent. on the 6 ₩ cents of 1881 from the cheap sales of Friday. The demand was very large, as well on Wall-street as at the Stock Exchange.

The Railway felt the improved turn in Money affairs, and were generally higher. The Gold Room was not so buoyant, and closed scarcely so high as on Friday. The shipments by the day's steamers amount to $1,221,594, making for the week (including $505,000 by steamer *Glasgow*, last Saturday, not cleared in season for the last Custom House report,) $1,760,231.

The following quotations were made at the close of the dealings on the Street. Only one session of the Stock Boards was held:

	Frid.	Sat.		Frid.	Sat.
U. S. 6s, 1881	115¾	116½	Pittsburgh	93	94¾
U. S. 5-20's	107	108¼	Northwest	40¾	41⅜
T. Certificates	96½	97	N. West Pref.	71	71⅜
N. Y. Central	114	114¾	Rock Island	103	104⅜
Erie	87¼	87½	Fort Wayne	101	103¼
Hudson	115⅜	115¾	Cum'land Coal.	44	45½
Reading	114	115	Quicksilver	94½	94⅞
Mich. Southern	70	70⅞	Mariposa	32¾	34
Illinois Cen.	124	125½	Ohio & M. Certfs	33	33⅜

The First National Bank took $169,000 in subscriptions to the 7-30 ₩ cent Loan.

The following bids were made to-day for the City Bank share. The half-yearly dividend of the Tenth National Bank is 5 ₩ cent.

New-York	110	American Exchange	125
Manhattan	130	Bank of the Republic	105
Merchants'	115½	Bank of N. Amer.	105
Union	118	Hanover	104
America	140	Irving	100
City	155	Metropolitan, x. d.	125
Phenix	110	Peoples' x. d.	106
Fulton	160	Corn Exchange	100
Mech. & Traders'	125	Imp. and Traders'	111
Merchants' Exchange	100	Central National	104
State of New-York	125	Fourth National	96
Mercantile	120		

And the following for the Railway Mortgages:

N. Y. Cen. 7s, '76	117½	Chi. & N. W. 2ds	98½
N. Y. Cen. 7s, con., '76	120	Han. & St. Jo. L. G.	90
Erie 1st mort. '68	104½	Tol. & Wab. 1sts	99
Erie 7s, 2d mort, '79	117	Tol. & W. 1sts, Ext.	99
Erie 7s, 4th mort., '80	104	Tol. & Wab. 2ds	83
Erie 7s, 5th mort. '88	103	Clev. & Tol. S. F.	107½
Buff. N. Y. & E. 1st m., '77	104	New J. C. 2ds	115
Hud. R., 7s, 1sts m., '69	105	Pitts. Ft. W. & C. 1sts	112
Harlem 1st m., '69 & '72	105	Pitts. Ft. W. & C. 2ds	104
Chi., B. & Q., 8 ₩ c. 1st	120	Clev. & Pitts. 4ths	80
Pacific R. 7s. g. by Mo.	55	Miss. & Mo. L. G. 1sts	57
Alton & T. H. 1sts	100	Chi. & Alt. 1sts	106
Chi. & N. W. S. F.	106½	Ohio & Miss 1sts	90
Chi. & N. W. Int. B.	95	Peninsular R. R. B.	80
Chi. & N. W. 1sts	97		

Referring again to the lengthy advertisement in this paper, of the Wyandotte Valley, (or Cabell County,) West Virginia, Oil and Coal Land estate, we are requested to say that about 150 of the 650 parts into which this property is proposed to be divided, at the rate of $1,500 for each part, have already been subscribed, and that Mr. YELVERTON, the President of the Bank of North America, has consented to act as Trustee for the Association. We are further given to understand that no subscription is made binding, and no money required to be paid to the Trustee, until the entire 650 parts are taken up, preliminary to the organization of a company for developing the Oil, Lumber and Mineral resources of the estate of 100,000 acres. To parties disposed to adventure their $1,500 or $3,000 each in this speculation, we beg to say that the personal references in the advertisement are sufficiently respectable and responsible for consultation and advice, wholly independent of any newspaper notice on the subject.

The day's business at the office of the Assistant Treasurer United States, New York, was as follows: Receipts, $2,875,700 78; for customs, $63,000; payments, $7,313,506 98; on account loan, $67,000; balance, $19,861,443 47.

Subscriptions to the 7-30 Loan at the Ninth National Bank, during the week past, amount to $634,350.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

FEMALES.

A DRESSMAKER, WHO CUTS AND TRIMS dresses in the latest style, wishes work by the day or week. Call or address No. 178 West 13th-st., between 8th and 9th avs.

MALES.

WANTED—BY A YOUNG MAN, RESPECTABLY connected, a situation as salesman or assistant; is willing to make himself generally useful, and has unexceptionable references as to character and ability. Address B. N., Box No. 126 *Times* Office.

A RELIABLE CLERK, OF GOOD CHARACTER and strict business habits, wants to do some writing, keeping accounts or any other business or private matters during the evening. Unquestionable references given. Answer J. H., Box No. 101 *Times* Office.

HELP WANTED.

WANTED—IN A COMMISSION HOUSE ON THE Mississippi River, a young man of steady habits, who writes a good hand, with some experience in double entry, and is willing to make himself generally useful. Address, in writing of applicant, stating age and salary expected, with references, C. H. E., Box No. 153 *Times* Office. No attention will be paid to agents.

WANTED—A FIRST-CLASS CARRIAGE PAINTER; one that is competent to take charge of the painting department of a coach manufactory; one that is a varnish finisher; desire him to take charge of the hands in his department; references required. Address J. & B. BRUCE, Cincinnati, Ohio.

WANTED—A SALESMAN IN A STEEL WAREhouse; to one well acquainted with the trade a liberal salary will be given. Address Box No. 4,983 Post-office.

WANTED—A BOOK-KEEPER, TO KEEP A plain set of books, that might or might not require his whole time. Address, with references, stating salary expected, M., Box No. 3,911 Post-office.

WANTED—FOUR GOOD LOCKSMITHS, A brass turner and a book-keeper; one somewhat accustomed to the hardware business. Apply at 796 3d-av.

TO PAPER-MAKERS.—WANTED, ONE OR two machine tenders. None but temperate men need apply to W. H. PARSONS & BROTHER, No. 74 Duane-st., New-York.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—TIMBER LOT OF 674 ACRES.—ONE of the most valuable timber lots in this State, within 3¼ miles of canal and railroad, near the head of Seneca Lake; easy of access, and surrounded by highly improved farms, worth from $50 to $60 per acre. The land is heavily timbered, and is of better soil and surface than any other similar body in the State. The property has on it a steam saw mill and shingle machine in running order, four dwellings and two barns. Title perfect; price $50 per acre. Very favorable terms will be made with a party who desires to lumber it, or it will be exchanged in part for other first-class property near New-York, or for well located Western lands at cash prices. W. L. BARNES, No. 362 Broadway, third floor, rear.

FOR SALE.—NO. 9 EAST 19TH-ST., NEAR 5TH-av. and Broadway. The lot is 25 feet by half the block; the building is 3 stories in rear and 2 in front; is now a factory, with steam power; would be sold with or without the power; could be easily converted into a private or livery stable, with lofts above to let. Apply on the premises.

ORANGE, N. J.—VILLAS, VILLA SITES AND farms, a great variety, beautifully situated, one hour from New-York, for sale low. Also, country seats and houses to let for the season or year, by HENRY B. BLACKWELL, No. 59 William-st., New-York, 9 to 11 A. M.; No. 49 Main-st., Orange, 1 to 5 P. M.

FACTORY FOR SALE—IN NEWARK, NEW-Jersey, three-story brick, central, well lighted and suitable for manufacturing purposes. Apply to A. H. BROWN, No. 317 Broad-st., Newark, New-Jersey.

A BARGAIN.—FOR SALE A FINE THREE-story house and lot, No. 65 East 4th-st.; also No. 10 East 17th-st., near 5th-av. S. EDDY, No. 8 Pine-st.

FOR SALE—HOUSE AND LOT ON 4TH-ST., Albion-place, 25x60 feet, 4-story, basement and under-cellar, built in the very best manner; lot 100 feet. S. EDDY, No. 8 Pine-st.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MARBLE MANTELS.

The best place in the city to purchase cheap and well finished mantels is at

MARTIN OLSEN'S MANTEL MANUFACTORY,

No. 336 Navy-st., and No. 66 Flatbush-av., Brooklyn Long Island, N. Y.

FINE PLATED WARE,

Manufactured by the

MANHATTAN PLATE COMPANY.

Tea sets, urns, casters, wine casters, soup tureens, vegetable dishes, &c., &c.

In great variety.

HIRAM YOUNG, No 20 John st.

VALENTINES.

I am now manufacturing, and ready to fill orders. Catalogues sent free on addressing

B. W. HITCHCOCK.

Valentine Headquarters, No. 14 Chambers-st., N. Y.

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST INK.

AMERICAN UNION INK, jet black ink, flows freely and does not corrode. Sold at No. 5 Ludlow-st., and at the stationers generally. JESSE G. KEYS.

FOR SALE—HAY.—FIFTY TONS OF FIRST quality red top salt meadow Hay, located in the English Neighborhood, New-Jersey, a few miles from New-York. The Hay is so situated that it can be reached either by railroad or navigation. To be sold cheap. J. G. HUSCAK, No. 421 Broadway.

NOTICE.—AN ELECTION FOR FIVE TRUSTees of the Greenwood Cemetery, will be held at the office of the Cemetery, No. 30 Broadway, on WEDNESDAY, the 28th inst., between the hours of 1 and 2 o'clock P. M. J. A. PERRY, Secretary.

The New-York Times.

NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, DEC. 25, 1864.

THE NEW-YORK TIMES.

The price of the TIMES (Daily) is FOUR CENTS.
To Mail Subscribers per annum.....$10 00
Including Sunday morning edition, $12.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TIMES.

One copy 1 year.....$3 00
Two copies 1 year.....5 00

THE WEEKLY TIMES.

One copy 1 year.....$2 00
Three copies 1 year.....5 00

Fresh names may at any time be added to Clubs, both of the WEEKLY and SEMI-WEEKLY, at Club Rates.
Payments invariably in advance.
We have no authorized traveling Agents. Remit in checks or post office money orders wherever it can be done.
Address H. J. RAYMOND & CO., Publishers.

The List of Letters.

The list of letters remaining uncalled for in the Post-office, published officially in the columns of the NEW-YORK TIMES, can be consulted in the Business Office of the TIMES. It will be found upon a bulletin inside the building.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE REBELLION.

While HOOD lay in front of Nashville, ISHAM G. HARRIS, the rebel Governor of Tennessee, fulminated a proclamation, calling upon the Tennesseans to "arise." The following paragraph occurs in it: "We have driven the enemy in confusion to your capital, and now stand before the bristling fortifications which surround it. He can, must and will be driven from this last stronghold, and beyond the limits of our State. We are here for the purpose of redeeming and protecting Tennessee or finding graves upon her soil." A great many of them found the alternative, but ISHAM'S legs saved him.

Vermont's credit of men against a future call, was 1,014 on the 12th of October last. Recruiting has not been abandoned since, and it will not be difficult to fill the quota that may be assigned to that State under the present call, as promptly as has been done heretofore.

The Navy Department on Friday received intelligence of the death of Acting Master CHARLES THATCHER, of Maine, commanding the *Gazelle*, attached to the Mississippi squadron. He was murdered by guerrillas on Racconi Island, on the 25th ult.

Col. ROULSTON, Twenty-fourth New-York Cavalry, the leader of the Union officers, in attempting to break out of Danville prison, who was shot, died of his wound Thursday, 15th.

Richmond papers of the 22d announce the approach of two of our cavalry divisions upon Gordonsville, by way of Chester Gap and Madison Court-house.

Scouts who left Staunton on Tuesday, say that the rebel force in the Shenandoah Valley is now about five thousand, half being cavalry.

Gen. GILMAN MARSTON, of Dover, is the Union candidate for Congress in the First District of New-Hampshire.

FROM EUROPE.

The steamship *Peruvian*, from Liverpool Dec. 15, via Londonderry Dec. 16, passed Cape Race yesterday. The European news is unimportant. Great anxiety was felt to learn the result of the movements of SHERMAN and THOMAS. The London *Times* again urges mediation. The *Africa's* mail from Boston reached this city last evening.

The steamer *George Cromwell* arrived in this city last evening, from New-Orleans Dec. 17. On the 8th inst. the gunboat *Narcissus* was blown up in Mobile Bay by a torpedo. No lives were lost, and only two men severely scalded. The vessel is a total loss.

GENERAL NEWS.

Both Boards of the Common Council met yesterday, and both passed an ordinance drafted and submitted to them by Mayor GUNTHER, amending the ordinance passed in January, 1862, prohibiting the sprinkling of salt on railroad tracks, so as to extend the prohibition to cover all streets and avenues, and fixing the penalty for each violation of it of not less than $500, nor more than $1,000. The Aldermen laid over a report from the Committee on Streets in favor of extending and widening Church-street, from Fulton-street to Morris-street. The proposed new width is 80 feet. The Councilmen concurred in the amendments to the ordinance to regulate the Fire Department. Both Boards adjourned to Tuesday, the Aldermen at 12 M and the Councilmen at 1 P. M.

Lieut. ALFRED FOOT, of the Fourteenth United States Regular Infantry, who was wounded in August last, in the closely contested battle for the possession of the Weldon Railroad, has been promoted and appointed a Captain by brevet for gallant services during the operations on the Weldon Railroad. Virginia, to take rank from the 18th August, 1864," (the day he was wounded.) Capt. FOOT, who is still at the residence of his father, Judge FOOT, in Geneva, although yet unfit for service, is slowly recovering from his wound. He will never have the full use of his arm, however.

General business was inactive on Saturday. Breadstuffs, Cotton, Whisky and Petroleum favored buyers. Pork opened heavily, but closed buoyantly. Groceries were quiet. The freight market was quiet, with 431 vessels of all classes in port.

The Washington correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* says: "That the French mission is not likely to go begging, is witnessed by the fact that the President has received applications in behalf of over fifty different gentlemen."

Major-Gen. ROBERT B. POTTER, commanding the Second Division of the Ninth Army Corps, arrived in town yesterday on a short leave of absence, and is stopping at his residence, No. 16 Gramercy-park.

It is a curious fact that the statistics of the Internal Revenue Office show that New-York State furnishes *one-fourth* of the total revenue derived from that source.

The Commissioner of Pensions decides that Assistant Paymasters are not in the military service in the meaning of the law, and, therefore, are not entitled to pensions.

All the churches in Nashville, with one exception, have been taken for hospitals. They could not be put to better use at present.

THE VITAL FORCES NORTH AND SOUTH.—The problem to be solved in this war is the same which offers in all vital struggles—the relative strength of the combatants. At first the disparity in this respect between the rebel and the national Governments did not clearly appear. Our armies were confronted by armies equal in number and in courage; and the waste of war on either side appeared to be remedied with equal ease. Indeed, at the first, if there was any advantage in this respect, it rested with the rebels. The institution of slavery, the simplicity of Southern life, and the despotic hold which wealth and social position gave the few over the lives of the many, invested the rebel authorities in the first stage of the war with greater military capabilities than apparently belonged to the National Government. They stood the test put upon them with unwavering stedfastness and confidence, hoping that we might tire in our efforts because of their bold front so long and tirelessly maintained. They might have been wiser in their military conduct; they might have husbanded their strength with greater care, but they could not have shown a firmer determination to meet all of our strength with all of theirs. Greater modesty in their undertakings would have served their purpose better than their restless audacity has done. It is true, that their lavish and spendthrift habit of waging war has given them so formidable a seeming, that it has fostered a peace party at the North, and fomented schemes of foreign interference; but failing to gain from these any substantial results, it has failed of everything, and only hastens the final collapse and ruin.

The "American Poland."

It is often urged by our foreign enemies, and by those in England who merely look at this great struggle as critical observers, that if we succeed in conquering the rebel States, we only create an American "Ireland" or a "Poland," which the Union must henceforth govern.

If this great war were merely a war for territory, a struggle as to who shall hold certain thousand square miles of ground, there would be much force in the objection. It the South were in such relations to the Union as Poland was to Russia; if a different branch of the same race inhabited her territory; if she had had a separate and not inglorious history of her own; if wrongs without number had been inflicted upon her unhappy people for generations by the Federal Government; if all political rights had been denied her in time of peace, her young men had been beheaded and exiled and her women flogged; and above all, if all classes of her society hated the Union as the Poles hate Russia, then, indeed, we should confess that this Government had a most difficult task to accomplish, which would be entirely inconsistent with the genius of a Republic.

For a Democratic Government could hardly continue to exist, and yet hold down a wronged and oppressed population by force, such as we have supposed. Indeed, we would go further, and confess that if this had been the relation between the South and the Union, and the rebels had been as adverse to us and with as good cause, as were the Poles against the Russian Imperial Government in the first revolution, then would the conquest of the South be clearly impossible. Four millions of such a race as the Anglo-American, with four millions of contented slaves, could never be conquered. Not all the imperial power of the United States could effect such a conquest. All the experience of history is against it. There is a power of the human soul, when favored by circumstances and strengthened by a good cause, which can fairly be called unconquerable. No force of material wealth or numbers can, under certain conditions, possibly equal the inexpugnable strength of the will of man. The Southerners, if they were determined, as were the Poles, would flee to the mountains and the swamps; they could resist longer than we could attack; they would fight and endure as men never fought or endured before. Even the vast wealth of the Free States, and the best blood of all their youth, might be emptied into the Southern swamps, and we be not a day nearer the conquest of the South.

Foreign critics look at the problem in precisely this light, and prophesy with perfect assurance—as GLADSTONE and Earl RUSSELL have done—that we can not possibly succeed in our great effort.

But every man here who thinks, knows that the conditions of the question are entirely different from what the European observer supposes. We know that our cause is just; that no wrongs or oppression have ever been perpetrated on any portion of the Southern population by this Government; on the contrary, that they have received blessings uncounted, and that the breaking of law and compact has all been on their side. We know that we move on the great current of justice and of Providence; that we are upholding law, and have endeavored to confine, and where we have had the legal or military power, to overthrow, human slavery, while they, in the full light of the nineteenth century, have rebelled for slavery, and are now seeking to carry on this terrible war in order to build up a State founded on the chattel-slavery of a race.

We should doubt of a superintending and divine Providence, if we could suppose they would succeed in such an infamous attempt. These are our moral grounds of confidence.

Then, furthermore, we are convinced that this is a *class war*—a war of the base aristocracy, representing slave property, supported by their ignorant and dependent followers, against the democracy of the country and the age. It is a struggle against the rights of labor, on their part, whether performed by blacks or whites. The mass of the white population, though temporarily beguiled into it, and now blinded by passion, have really no interest in it. When the aristocracy are broken down, the non-slaveholding classes will feel no deep-seated opposition to the Union, and have no ground of complaint against it.

A few years will cool the fever which war has aroused, and, under a Government like ours, where they will speedily feel themselves with the same rights as their conquerors, and being of the same race, with the same essential interests, with a like past history, they would undoubtedly settle themselves down quietly and contentedly under the benignant parent Government, and the feuds of the fearful civil war of 1860–4 be as much things of the past, as are now the feuds of the wars of the Fronde in France, or of the Roses, or the strife of the Puritans and Cavaliers in England.

We grant, that if Slavery should continue to exist with a restored South, there would be dangers of fearful Polish-like revolutions and outbreaks by that pestilent aristocracy, for the sake of restoring their caste and increasing their wealth. But we have no doubt that the iron heel of war will crush that institution into unnumbered fragments, and the slave aristocracy be as much broken up and exterminated, as were the old French aristocracy after the revolution.

But beside all these grounds of hope for the result of the struggle, we must never forget that all the peasantry and a large portion of the middle class in the South are still really on the side of "the conquerors"—a thing never true of Poland or Ireland. The four millions slaves—loyalists even unto death—must never be disregarded in considering the possible chances of the future—nor that great multitude of silent loyalists in the towns and villages, and those much enduring ones driven to the mountains and swamps by the relentless persecution and tyranny of the DAVIS despotism.

What if all the peasantry of Poland, and a third of its middle class had been on the side of the Imperial Government in the First Revolution—how difficult would it have been for that Power to have conquered and held Poland.

We confidently hope and believe that when this civil war is over, there will be no gloomy Poland or oppressed Ireland on this continent, but a fair region delivered from its own oppressors, and its own most fearful blight, happy with free labor and equal rights—to increase henceforth in intelligence, good order, and industry; contented, because prosperous and enjoying every political privilege, bound to the Union by cords of interest and affection and confidence for many centuries to come.

The Robbers' Prize.

There ought not to be a moment's longer delay, on the part of the Canadian authorities, in restoring the money stolen by the St. Alban's raiders, no matter what disposition may be made of the raiders themselves. Lodging it in bank to await the issue of the investigation was a farce from the outset, because the question raised was not as to the fact of the robbery, or as to the guilt of the robbers, (we believe they have never denied the offence,) but as to the power of the Canadian Government to hand them over for trial in the United States. No matter how this point was decided, the money remained the property of the Vermont banks, and it was therefore highly improper and scandalous for the Canadian police to make themselves the custodians, for the benefit of men who were confessedly thieves, of what was notoriously booty.

The restoration of the money to YOUNG and his gang would only have been allowable in case the Canadian courts had come to the conclusion that they were not guilty of the offence charged; but that question was not raised, nor decided; the decision that the Canadian courts had no jurisdiction, was the only one that could have been rendered, and this would not have changed the proprietorship of the money. Supposing there had been no extradition treaty in existence at all, (and it is not very long since such was the case,) will it be seriously maintained that gangs of men might cross the border, rob and murder on the American side, come back again, and, after having avowed their guilt, receive the protection of the Canadian law for the possession of their spoil? The Canadian Government would be bound, in any such case, either to restore the things stolen, or to pay for them if it had failed to use due diligence in searching for them or seizing them, no matter what disposition it made of the thieves.

It may be said that if it did this, the robbers would have their action in the courts against the officials who relieved them of their plunder. But what would that be to us? If the Canadian legislatures choose to leave their officers liable in such actions, so much the worse for them. That is their affair, not ours. It is Canada and not citizens of the United States that must suffer from defects in Canadian legislation. In this instance the stolen property has been actually in possession of the authorities, and not only has it been restored to the criminals, but special and extraordinary means have been taken to restore it. It would be hard to meet with stronger grounds for insisting on compensation from the public funds to the victims of the outrage.

So that we think our Government would be fairly warranted, whether the raiders are again arrested or not, in insisting on the immediate payment to the St. Alban's victims either of the whole sum stolen from them, or at all events, of that portion of it which was found in the possession of the robbers by the Canadian police, which by the criminal connivance of the latter, was handed over to the marauders after their discharge. It is no answer to this claim to say that no such case is expressly provided for by the usages of nations or by writers on international law. Whenever precedents or textbooks fail us, we have in such cases to fall back on the great laws of morality and justice, about which there is, happily, but little doubt.

HOUSE-RENTS IN NEW-YORK.—We have a letter on house-rents from an authority perfectly competent to speak on the subject; and it is satisfactory to find that, while our correspondent corrects a presumable inference from certain reflections on the subject, that have appeared in these columns, he does not assail the essential point we desired to bring under notice. We do not question, for a moment, that landlords of the class to which CARL BENSON belongs, are content with the reasonable returns from house property which he presents, and which unquestionably apply in many instances, aside from his own experience, as he shows. What we have urged is, that the rage for mere speculation in up-town lots, the inferior class of tenements—many of them without cellarage, and a still greater number mere shells as to their exterior and interior fittings, combined with the inadequate means of speedy conveyance to and from the suburban portions of the island, constitute a material item in our social disabilities as *Islanders*. We have urged nothing more than this, and we should be sorry if our correspondent disagreed with us herein. We want two or three lines of cheap *through* railroads, running on quick time, and subject to a directory that may be disposed to treat passengers as something better than cattle, in the accommodation they supply.

Future Bearings of the Florida Case.

The writer of the "City Article" of the London *Times* is, in all ordinary matters, a very sensible and sagacious man; but whenever he touches on any topic connected, however remotely, with the United States, he seems to go "clean daft." And his monomania shows itself oftener than would otherwise be the case, owing to his inveterate habit of making short excursions out of his own sphere, into discussions upon subjects about which, to speak plainly, he knows nothing whatever. His animosity to the North is so intense that he hardly ever pens an article on stocks and bonds in which he does not manage, at some point or other, to insert an expression of opinion as to the policy or strategy of the American war, or the improbability of the American debt ever being paid, or the proper construction of the foreign enlistment act, or the secret designs of LINCOLN or SEWARD.

We find in the files of the *Times* received by a recent mail, an utterance from him on the law of the *Florida* case, which furnishes such an excellent illustration of the condition of the gentleman's mind, that we cannot avoid directing attention to it. We need hardly say that his knowledge of international law, is probably derived entirely from conversation with the stockbrokers "on 'Change," and it is, therefore, not always as accurate as it might be. He says:

"Advices from New-York, with regard to the mode in which the Washington Government have received the news of the capture of the Confederate steamer *Florida*, are awaited with the greatest interest by the mercantile, as well as the political world. One reason for the importance attributed to these advices, consists in the inference that if the affair be palliated or condoned by LINCOLN'S Government, it will henceforth entirely extinguish any power on the part of the United States, to assail by privateers the commerce of any nation with which they may be at war, since the precedent will establish a claim to the right to pursue and destroy every such vessel, whatever may be the port in which she may seek shelter or supplies."

This "inference" is a very good specimen of the kind of reasoning on these matters which is in use amongst the worthies from whom the *Times'* writer gets most of his legal and political opinions, and its absurdity is so great, that we ought almost to ask pardon of our readers for exposing it.

It will be observed, that the offence committed by the *Wachusett* is an offence against Brazil. No other Power has anything to complain of. It is the territory of Brazil which has been violated, and it is for Brazil to say what reparation she requires, or whether she requires any reparation at all. Her right to lie still and ask for no satisfaction whatever, is as complete as the right of a private individual to forgive an insult offered to him in his own house.

But if she should ask for satisfaction and not receive it, or if she choose not to ask at all, we need hardly say that it leaves both the rights and liabilities of all other Powers with regard to their honor or neutrality, completely untouched. Brazil might give the American Navy permission to block up all her harbors, or to burn her custom-houses, or to capture Confederate cruisers wherever found, but this would not change one tittle of the law of nations, or alter the position of any other people under it.

Nevertheless, "the mercantile and political world" in London have come to the conclusion that if Brazil either receives no reparation, or asks for none from "the Lincoln Government," all other Powers would hereafter be obliged to allow belligerents to pursue privateers into their ports and capture them there. Or, "to clothe the case with circumstance"—in case of a war between England and America, if an American privateer entered a French port, a British man-of-war would be entitled to pursue and capture her, and the French authorities would be debarred from remonstrating by the fact that Brazil had once submitted to a similar outrage. "The precedent," says the sapient city editor, "will establish the right to pursue and destroy every such vessel whatever may be the port in which she seeks such shelter or refuge."

When nonsense of this kind is gravely put in print in that portion of the columns of one of the first newspapers in the world, which is specially devoted to the instruction of business men, one cannot help drawing the most melancholy conclusions as to the state of mind of the English middle classes, as to the national rights and duties. No man could have written the paragraph we have quoted, who lived in a community whose members had got a single clear idea of the nature and extent of international obligations. The notion that the perpetration of an act of wrong by one Power, and the willing or unwilling submission to it by another, give all the other Powers in the world the right to commit similar acts of wrong, and compels those on whom they are committed to put up with them, is one which we should hardly expect to find in circulation in any country sufficiently far advanced in civilization to be able to grasp the idea of law at all, or understand what a precedent means. And there can be little doubt that it owes its circulation in England to the insane eagerness of a portion of the public to extract from every event of the day something that will bear against the United States.

LORD RUSSELL ON NEUTRALITY.—We have published the text of Lord RUSSELL'S reply to the last rebel manifesto. Though brief, it contains not a few words of considerable significance. Lord RUSSELL probably did not mean to be specially offensive to the Government of the United States. And yet we think common international courtesy might have taught him something more gracious toward a friendly Power, than to declare inferentially that the division of this Republic is an accomplished fact. Nor do we think Lord RUSSELL was correct, either as to a matter of history or taste, in speaking of the friendly relations existing between the British Government and the Northern and the Southern States before this war commenced. The British Government sustained no relations of a political nature toward any *section* of the United States, Northern or Southern, before the war broke out. Her relations were with the Federal Government of the Republic. And Mr. SEWARD might with equal propriety address himself on any frivolous pretext to the question of the friendly relations which his Government has always maintained toward Ireland as well as Great Britain. It would be deemed offensive in England were Mr. SEWARD to say such a thing as this. But the peculiar practice of British neutrality which we witness all around us on the ocean, at British Colonial ports, and on the Provincial frontiers, probably ought to accustom us even to a less gracious style of diplomatic observation than Lord RUSSELL'S.

Liberty of the Press in France.

A most interesting controversy has recently taken place between M. DE GIRARDIN and the Duke DE PERSIGNY on this subject.

The Duke, it will be remembered, is a rigid Imperialist, who, when Minister of the Interior, and Censor-General, ruled French journalists with a rod of iron; while M. DE GIRARDIN has ever been the earnest advocate of that "Fourth Estate," of which he has been so long a member and an ornament. The controversy is embodied in a correspondence, which originated thus:

M. DE GIRARDIN, having published a book, in which his views touching the rights and disabilities of the French Press were freely expressed, sent a copy of it to the Duke, and the Duke, in his letter of acknowledgment, commented so pointedly on some of the author's positions, as to elicit a reply and justification from GIRARDIN. The opinions of the Ex-Minister and editor are not, however, so diametrically opposed as might be imagined. The Duke's mind has evidently undergone a partial change on the question at issue, and though he still maintains that it would be dangerous to concede to the press of France the same measure of liberty enjoyed by the press of England, America, Switzerland, and Belgium, he nevertheless admits that the views of his antagonist are in the main accurate, and merely objects to them because he regards them as premature, and therefore injudicious. But if the Duke considers the views of M. GIRARDIN out of place and pernicious at present, he predicts that the day will arrive when they will be fully carried into practice, and when the public press in France will be as free as in any of the countries named—nay he boldly condemns the existing system, and declares that he "feels very little inclined to support" it "*without great modifications.*" M. GIRARDIN, however, will not be satisfied with the modification of the restrictive system, but demands its total abrogation. "Any modification of the present laws," says he, "would be simply a return to the laws of the Restoration, or of the monarchy of 1830. Better not touch them than to attempt to modify them; for to give the press perfect liberty, *minus one fraction*, would suffice to declare that, minus that fraction, it was not a free press."

GIRARDIN, in fact, would expunge the gagging laws from the statute-book with a stroke of the pen, and give back perfect liberty to the French press without delay; whereas, the Duke DE PERSIGNY would, for the present, only so modify these laws as to render them less oppressive and odious to the French people, and more respectable in the eyes of the world.

Yet it is highly probable that the modification scheme of the Ex-Minister has given almost as much offence to the Emperor as the more radical project of the editor. Be this, however, as it may, there is a rumor in Paris that immediately after the publication of the Duke's letter, he received a *billet doux* from his sovereign, in which the veteran Statesman was sharply reproved for his indiscretion, and, as if to confirm this rumor, a paragraph simultaneously appeared in the semi-official *Constitutionnel*, which announces that "the Emperor has expressed to M. DE PERSIGNY his regret that, without having consulted His Majesty, he should have expressed in his letter to M. GIRARDIN, a desire to see modifications introduced in the laws on the press." This is evidently a desire in which the Third Napoleon feels no disposition to share. However unsatisfactory those laws may appear to M. DE PERSIGNY, however odious they may be deemed by M. GIRARDIN and his brother journalists, they are nevertheless perfectly satisfactory to the Emperor, who considers their existence necessary to the stability of his throne, and who will not be moved either by the new born philanthropy of the Duke, or the dialectics of M. GIRARDIN to unchain a power which has proved so fatal in the past to the authority of the despots of France. Freedom of the press is one of the concessions indispensable to the "crowning of the political edifice" which the Bonapartes will never grant.

Pirates vs. Corsairs.

The rumor that JUAREZ, the Mexican President, intended to fit out privateers to harass French shipping, has alarmed and shocked M. BONIFACE, the editor of the Paris *Constitutionnel*. M. BONIFACE assumes to be an authority on questions appertaining to maritime law, and has repeatedly taken a prominent part in defending the character of the rebel pirates; but now that he is apprehensive lest the commercial interests of the empire should suffer from his persistent advocacy of a bad cause, he deems it prudent to modify his views on the subject. In accordance with this determination, M. BONIFACE has inserted a note in his journal, in which he marks the distinction between a corsair and a pirate. "The former," says he, "is an armed ship, furnished with letters-of-marque by a regularly constituted and *recognized* Government; but a pirate has no legal character, and its acts call for prompt retribution from all Powers interested in maintaining the law of nations." This is sound doctrine, yet what becomes of the editor's argument in defence of the Southern privateers, when tried by such a test? Of course, the object of Mr. BONIFACE was not to prove the rebel ships pirates, and to upset his own logic. His design was rather to demonstrate that the expected privateers of JUAREZ would belong to the latter category. He has been much more successful, however, in assailing his former clients, and exposing his past sophistry, than in making out his case against the Mexican privateers. Whether said privateers will ever have more than an ideal existence, seems somewhat problematical, but if they should at any time make their appearance, M. BONIFACE insists that they must be treated as pirates, and that all Powers must exact prompt retribution for their acts. This is a very different conclusion from that which the gentleman arrived at when he had the case of the *Alabama* and *Florida* under consideration. The Jeff. Davis vessels were regularly commissioned to capture, plunder and destroy; they were engaged in honorable warfare; their outrages were justifiable; they were not to be treated as *hostes humani generis*, but were to be hospitably entertained by the nations as often as they entered their ports. And yet, these vessels had been furnished with letters-of-marque by a traitor, in rebellion against the legitimate Government of his country, and whose authority had never been recognized by a single foreign State, whereas JUAREZ, whose right to send forth ships to prey upon French commerce, is denied, was constitutionally raised to the Presidential Chair of the Mexican Republic by the votes of the people, was but lately recognized, over the civilized world, as the legal head of the Commonwealth, and still continues, despite the usurpation of MAXIMILIAN, to be recognized as such by all the States of the Western hemisphere. Now, whether, is the constitutionally elected President of the Mexican Republic, who has been universally recognized, or the pseudo-President of Rebeldom, who has never been recognized at all, the better entitled to grant letters-of-marque, and to commission privateers?

If the Mexican President is no longer a ruler *de facto*, he, yet, still continues to be—what the rebel President never was—a ruler *de jure*. If the Government of JUAREZ is no longer a "regularly constituted" one, it is still at least a partially-recognized one, and has still a partially legal character. Consequently, its head has a right to issue letters-of-marque, and to commission privateers, which his Southern cotemporary never enjoyed.

Obituary.

CHARLES CELESTINE SHERMAN.

Died, at South Bend, Ind., on Sunday, Dec. 4, 1864, of pneumonia, CHARLES CELESTINE SHERMAN, infant son of Maj.-Gen. W. T. and ELLEN E. SHERMAN, aged five months and twenty-three days. It will be remembered by our readers that Mrs. SHERMAN left her former home, at Lancaster, Ohio, and took up her residence at South Bend, Ind., for the purpose of being near her children, who are being educated at the Catholic institutions near that place. The remains of the babe were conveyed to St. Mary's Academy, where they were received by a procession of lovely children of the "Holy Angels," with white veils and lighted candles, and laid out in the parlor of the Academy, the young ladies belonging to the Children of Mary keeping constant watch, both night and day. The beautiful head of the child was crowned with flowers, which flowed like wavelets of light almost to the feet, and his mother with touching propriety, placed a palm branch in the alabaster hand of the little one. A silver crucifix stood at the head, and lights were kept constantly burning around him. On Wednesday afternoon the touching rites of infant burial were performed by Very Rev. E. SORIN, in the Church of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. The Right Rev. Bishop of Fort Wayne delivered an appropriate sermon upon Infant Baptism. The music of the choir, accompanied by the grand new organ just erected in the church, was indescribably touching and beautiful. The procession was headed by the Cross, with lights carried on either side, and followed by a long line of children of the Holy Angels (little boys who serve at the altar) in red cassocks and white surplices. After these came the little coffin, covered with a pall of embroidered white satin, a dove of gold in the centre. It was borne by four of the little "Holy Angels." Next came Mrs. SHERMAN, accompanied by the Superioress of St. Mary's, a near relative, with the other members of the family; Very Rev. Father Provincial, Rev. Father Setournean, and Rev. Father Carrier, who was godfather to the child; then followed the pupils of St. Mary's and a number of other persons.

JAMES W. SHAW.

One of our oldest, worthy and highly-esteemed citizens died at his residence, No. 141 West Forty-seventh-street, in the city of New-York, on the 22d day of December, 1864, at the advanced age of ninety-seven years ten months and eight days. He way born on the 14th day of February, in the year 1767, in the city of New-York, at his father's residence, situated on the old Bowery road, then quite out of town, now about the corner of Chatham and Orange streets. After leaving college, he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. BRICKLE. Preferring mercantile pursuits to that of a profession, in the year 1784 he went with Messrs. PEARSAL & GLOVER, dry goods merchants. In 1789, he went to London, and a few years afterward established one of the then largest dry goods and shipping houses in the city of New-York, under the firm of SHAW & WOODS, and for many years remained in London. He has always sustained the reputation of one of the most honorable, upright and esteemed citizens. He died a pure and sincere Christian, in the full possession of all his faculties. He leaves a wife eighty-three years of age, and two sons, ROBERT L. SHAW and JAMES E. SHAW.

A Testimonial to Gen. Sherman.

The following circular is receiving a generous response in Ohio:

LANCASTER, Ohio, Dec. 14, 1864.

DEAR SIR: It has been suggested from various quarters that some suitable testimonial should be made to the distinguished son of Ohio, Major-Gen. WM. T. SHERMAN, and that the movement for that purpose, might, with propriety, originate here in his native city. It is thought that the people of the State would be glad of an opportunity to unite in tendering him a Homestead Farm as a substantial and enduring token of their appreciation of his genius and his achievements, and as an evidence that they desire that his name and fame should be forever united with his native State.

Some steps have already been taken to this end. The plan proposed is, that, as soon as it is ascertained that an interest is generally felt in the undertaking, a meeting shall be held in Columbus of those who will be active in it, and then and there trustees shall be selected to receive contributions from all wishing to unite in the object, and invest the fund by the purchase of a suitable farm, which shall be presented to Gen. SHERMAN by them on behalf of the contributors.

Acting as a committee for those who have originated this movement, we submit this suggestion to you, among others, and will be glad to have your advice and coöperation in the matter. As it is desirable to have the proposed meeting soon after the 1st of January, we would be obliged by an early reply.

Very respectfully your obedient servants,
H. H. HUNTER,
D. TALLMADGE,
JOHN T. BRASEE.

THE POSTPONED CONCERT.—The grand concert, under the direction of Dr. WM. BERGE, postponed on account of the weather, will take place at the Madison-avenue Baptist Church, next Wednesday (28th) evening, at 7½ o'clock. The concert, it will be remembered, is for the benefit of the Mission School connected with the church.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH, BROOKLYN.—A funeral discourse, on the occasion of the death of a soldier killed in the war, will be preached in Rev. Mr. BEECHER'S Church to-day, at 2 o'clock, by Rev. CHAUNCY GILES, pastor of the New-Jerusalem Church of New-York.

MEDICAL WOMBN.

The Lady Students at Bellevue Hospital.

CONCILIATORY WORDS.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

I have read with much interest the correspondence about the lady students at Bellevue, and feel anxious to bear testimony to the possibility of a courteous reception for women among medical men. I have, in the course of my medical studies, attended for months at the New-York Hospital, Bellevue and the Demilt Dispensary, visiting male and female medical and surgical wards, witnessing operations, and sometimes post-mortem examinations, in company with a number of young men, and have uniformly been treated with manly politeness. To the disinterested kindness of many of the visiting and resident physicians, I am largely indebted. Many other ladies, with whom I am personally acquainted, have gone over the same ground with the same satisfactory result, without a *feeling* of the pain that Mr. BEECHER, in his generous comment on this affair, thinks so unavoidable. There is a limited department of medical study, which young men and women can hardly, without mutual discomfort, investigate together; there are one or two wards in the hospital that it is both painful and unnecessary for women to enter. By avoiding this comparatively small and debatable territory, we have secured a cordial admission to all the rest, to all the opportunities practically needful for our future work.

It is exceedingly desirable that this question be amicably settled, for the suggestion made in your editorial to establish a separate hospital for women, does not meet the case. The Woman's Infirmary, on Second-avenue, has for ten years occupied the ground that might be claimed for such an enterprise. This has been entirely in the charge of ladies, and has received in its in and out-door practice, several thousand patients annually. It affords an admirable preparatory school for a young physician, and year after year, new graduates of the women's colleges in Boston and Philadelphia, avail themselves of its advantages. But no private enterprise can expect to compete with the great city hospital, with its 1,200 beds, its crowd of emigrant patients of all nations, its corps of eminent and experienced physicians, its organized system of clinical instruction. Such competition would be absurd, and would merely result in re-excluding women from the hospital facilities, which are essentials to all honest medical education.

It is earnestly hoped by all true friends of medical education for women, that this disagreeable controversy shall be settled by due concessions and compromises on both sides, and that women, by their tact as well as their *perseverance*, shall command the courtesy of these unmannerly youths.

STUDENT.

WOMAN'S APTITUDE FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

It is neither the design nor the desire of the students in our college to fill your columns with, and inflict upon the public, a discussion of a movement, the propriety of which we are successfully demonstrating. We represent an institution which has the legal sanction of the New-York State Legislature, and the approbation of Heaven. This belief relieves us from any necessity of defending our institution. Still, the communication published in the TIMES of the 18th inst., under the signature of "Mother of the Old School," gives expression to views so at variance with what we hold to be the true feelings of a woman, that it would seem reprehensible to let it pass unnoticed.

That "Infinite Wisdom gave to the sexes their specific, legitimate duties," we most willingly admit. Beyond all doubt, there are lines between our spheres of duty. We cherish no desire to efface them; we only hope to see them rightly and naturally drawn. And they must be, sooner or later; for where the Creator intended them to exist He has provided us with differences in our natures which we cannot overstep. When we claim that there are fields where we may labor together, it no more follows that our whole sphere of action shall be identical than, because we can breathe equally well through the mouth and the nose, that they may exchange the performance of their peculiar functions. Public approbation sanctions our united labors in the school-room and many other places, while Fame as readily places undying laurels on the brow of a BROWNING, a BONHEUR, a HOSMER, as if their gifted souls had written, or painted, or sculptured, through a masculine medium.

To the sphere of woman truly belongs "the molding of the tender germs of childhood;" but poorly molded will be the germ of that man or woman whose mother's mind was blank where should be written the laws of health, and the anatomical and physiological truths which make those laws. A mother should feel as responsible for the health of her child as that she should teach it to pray. And when the precious form is seized by disease, who but a mother can know her pressure of sympathy, and agony of apprehension? Is it not deplorable that the ignorance of this poor mother may have directly caused this suffering?

"Mother of the Old School" is not strikingly logical, when she claims in one paragraph that "the profession of medicine is too high for woman to aspire to," and in another that she be trained to nurse, and thus "Win more than half the battle," by "her attentive ear, her ready hand and her gentle voice," which "are eagerly sought for in the hour of sickness." If she, with the limited education of a nurse performs so much more than her learned assistant and maternal friend, leads us to the inevitable conclusion, that if in point of education she equalled him, her success must equal or exceed his.

I do not advocate that every woman shall graduate from a medical college, but I do feel that a class of thoroughly educated women, who shall practice among the people, can wield an influence—with our own sex especially—which we have not yet felt from the labors of men alone.

I believe that many who oppose us are not sincere, but rather than yield a point which affects their self-aggrandizement, or the safety of a long-cherished opinion, they oppose a work which has no other object avowed, or cherished, than the elevation of woman, and, through her, of the race. Many misaprehend us. We are not pseudo reformers, who go about offending the public with declarations of unwomanly sentiments; we are simply women, such as you have at your firesides, upon whom the needs of humanity press so heavily that we cannot trifle away our time in useless idleness. The alternative is not an easy one, for the effort necessary to meet the requirements and improve the advantages of our college, is enough to appall any woman whose nature is not high and fixed; still, we cheerfully enter upon the path of students' duties, and if it leads through Bellevue Hospital, we tread it none the less firmly, believing that no reason can exist why we should not be present where it is right that our suffering sisters are.

STUDENT.

MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, No. 724 Broadway, Dec. 19, 1864.

MEDICINE, WOMAN AND THE BELLEVUE STUDENTS.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

In looking over the TIMES of Dec. 18, the blood fairly tingled in my veins as I read a communication by a "Mother of the Old School" in defence of the conduct of certain students of Bellevue College. It seemed to me an extraordinary fact that there should be a woman in New-York City, having any pretension to refinement or delicacy, standing ready to indorse such conduct as theirs through the medium of the press.

Your correspondent assumes that the female students in question are taking upon themselves "the work and profession of men," or, to use plainer words, they are "man-usurpers." Now, so far as there is any *usurpation* in the case, it is strictly on the part of the men, and not the women. Two centuries ago the men ignobly wrested the practice of obstetrics from the hands of women, and now, in this nineteenth century, they have become so intolerant that they do not hesitate to drive intelligent young women from the cliniques, and deprive them of those sources of information which should be free to all, nay, which have been made free by an act of our Legislature. During the latter part of the sixteenth century, popular feeling in Europe was so strongly opposed to the practice of obstetrics by men, that a "physician in Hamburg was publicly branded because he was induced by curiosity to be present at a delivery in female attire." The authority for this is your own FRANCIS, now deceased, in his edition of DENMAN. Shade of the venerable FRANCIS! What would he say if he could return to earth and behold the students of Bellevue maltreating intelligent and virtuous young women because they are endeavoring to familiarize themselves with the profession of medicine? What would he say, further, if he could learn that a lady in New-York is the defender or apologist of said students?

The Athenians enacted a law forbidding women to engage in obstetrical practice; but such was the determined resistance of the women, who were resolved to die rather than submit to exposure, that the law was speedily repealed. The Danish Government, I should not forget to add, rendered itself famous by establishing schools for the education of women in obstetries, regarding it as highly improper for men to be thus employed. Hence, it will be seen that women, notwithstanding they are termed *man-usurpers*, have been grossly cheated out of a profession which rightfully belongs to them; and we trust that a generous public will see to it that they are speedily reinstated in their rights.

Your correspondent says: "The profession of medicine is too high a one for woman to aspire to; too great in its bearings for her to grasp. She cannot attain the fame that has attended the career of some of our ablest physicians and surgeons," &c. Your correspondent, perhaps, has never heard of Mme. BOIVIN, author of the *Mémorial sur l'Art des Accouchemens*; author also of a *Treatise on the Diseases of Women*, and other works, which have been for a long time authoritative text-books with the medical profession; I do not mean medical students merely, but the very highest grade of medical men, Prof. MEIGS, of Philadelphia, who is not much inferior in reputation to the GERMAN SCANZONI, frequently quotes Madame BOIVIN in his works on nice and critical points, and says in the most emphatic manner, "*She is a great authority.*" To show still further her great distinction, she was for a long time *Sage Femme enchef* to the Maison d' Accouchemens at Paris. Prof. MEIGS says of this eminent lady: "Her writings prove her to have been a most learned physician, and, as she enjoyed a very large practice, her science and her great clinical experience, as well as her own personal knowledge, are more to be relied on than that of all the male physicians together."

Your correspondent further says: "One of the ablest and most celebrated physicians in our city has told me that in lecturing at Bellevue, his cheek has blushed to find women as his auditors, listening to lectures most unfitted for them to hear." I do not understand why the Professor should have blushed in the presence of his women auditors, when he knew that they have come for the high and holy purpose of studying the mysteries of our organization, and preparing themselves for the grandest and most sacred duties that can fall to the human race. There is nothing in the works of God that should excite a blush. Your correspondent further urges that there is another difficulty which besets the Professor, namely, that he is obliged, in consequence of the presence of women, "to study his language and clothe his sentences in a way the least offensive to the ear of woman." Thus far there would be a point gained, for if the presence of women will have a refining influence, and induce professors to present their subjects in chaste and elegant language, instead of that grossness which sometimes greatly mars the enjoyment of the medical lecture-room, although it may greatly delight the vulgar portion of the class. Let them come in without number, and without any other restraint than that imposed by conscious purity and the instincts of true refinement.

In regard to the education of women for the medical profession, I am and always have been in favor of it, though having no connection with any institution for the purpose, and hope it will be encouraged by medical men as well as the public, provided their education is thorough and complete, so that they may be prepared for all of the duties and exigencies of the high calling to which they aspire.

A PHYSICIAN WHO LOVES PROGRESS.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 20.

SPIRITED DEFENCE OF FEMALE PHYSICIANS.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Permit me to say through your columns that I regret exceedingly that anything should have occurred to give occasion to the serious charges that have been brought against certain parties among our medical city students. "Bellevue Student" knows, if he will but allow his better nature to predominate, that the female students at Bellevue Hospital possess the purest, most refined natures; and that if they did not feel the importance of the work to which they are devoting themselves, they would shrink from placing themselves in a position where there was even a possibility that their motives might be misconstrued, their delicacy attacked and their reputation injured. But that a lady should countenance such conduct, should publicly express her "satisfaction" concerning his views, saddens me beyond expression, and I exclaim, when will the scales fall from eyes now blinded to God's truth?

"Women mistake their mission when they assume the work and professions of men;" why, my dear "Lady," these women do not "*assume*" *anything*; they merely desire to improve the talent God has given them, that they may be faithful servants in His vineyard, doing all that in them lies for poor suffering humanity, yearning only for the plaudit, "She hath done what she could."

I grant that "Infinite Wisdom gave to the sexes their specific, legitimate duties;" and when woman shall *know herself*; when she shall know how rightly to play upon each chord of this "harp of a thousand strings," then, and not till then, shall she know how properly to "perform the rights of a mother;" how in the most beautiful manner to "mould the tender germs of childhood;" how in the truest, highest sense, "to bear, to rear, to watch;" how most to elevate her brother man to such a state that he could not, if he would, do aught to "degrade and despoil her character."

How little does this Lady know of the winding paths in tangled thickets which these women have traveled, ere they were "induced to assume the arduous, wearing duties of a medical life." Through the fiery furnace of affliction, many of them have been led to see the sufferings and grievances which a medical education would enable them to relieve; and spite of the contumely heaped upon them; spite of the anxiety and weariness attendant upon such a course, they have nobly and bravely determined to consecrate their lives to the service of the race, because they feel that such service is loudly called for, and that they can thereby most effectually enhance the happiness of those who come within the sphere of their influence.

"Let women choose such subjects as their finite minds can understand." Does the lady, then, consider the *mind of man infinite?* And as for these subjects being "beyond her ability," I assure you that woman's intuition often enables her at a glance to comprehend the condition of a patient, and if she have the knowledge that shall enable her to apply skillfully the proper remedial agents—and this knowledge is just what our berated sisters are seeking to gain—then will she stand forth as man's peer in the medical profession.

At the Hygeio-Therapeutic College in New-York City, chartered in 1857, men and women are associated term after term, sitting side by side to listen to all the lectures, and witnessing all the operations which necessarily come before a class of medical students; and I have been told by more than one pure-minded Christian woman who has graduated there, that during all the time they were students, not one glance even of levity, did they perceive upon the face of any—not one word to which the angels might not have listened. The human form is there looked upon as a sacred thing, and a thorough knowledge of it essential to the well-being of both man and woman.

The "Lady" says, "Let our ambition be to sway mankind by our gentle natures to the eternal purposes of truth, justice and religion." Be assured that the broadest and highest education to which woman may aspire, the use of all the faculties God has given her, can never make her less gentle, less winning, less alive to the sublime necessity of a life fraught with the very essence of "truth, justice and religion."

A DAUGHTER OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

NEW-YORK, Thursday, Dec. 22, 1864.

WHY WOMEN ENTER THE PROFESSION.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

The words of your correspondent "Mother of the Old School," that "where life is concerned we need every requisite to preserve it," is just the ground that we women take in becoming physicians. It is no idle play with us, no dream of the moment. We begin to see *where* the error lies, and we are determined to overcome that error. Justice holds an equal balance. It is proclaimed as the ruling attribute of Deity; and as certain as we live in the nineteenth century, so certain will it be awarded to us.

Our mission is to stand by the helpless, the weak, and the undefended. Go with us to these "hospitals," of which so much has been written, and see how our sex is treated by these doctors. Notice the ribald laugh, the mocking jest as the cries of the sufferer rend the air. 'Tis enough to make any woman's spirit rise to woman's rescue, to compel her in justice to herself, to become a physician. Our sisters, and our sister's children need us—call for us—and to this voice we come, and that without infringing one atom on the "sphere" of the "gentleman doctor"—that sphere being the diseases of his own sex. Man has failed hitherto in understanding the nature of woman, and the particular diseases to which she is subject. Whereas a woman generally understands a woman, and instinctively knows her diseases; by *sympathy* she reaches them, and with science in her hands knows how to dispose of them. We no longer want men round our bedsides—and it is a truth confirmed by men and those men physicians, that "*no man*" desires to be there, when *once* woman are found competent for the work. The truest men of the age are helping women into this field.

ONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE A PHYSICIAN.

NEW YORK, Monday, Dec. 19, 1864.

A MOTHER'S VIEW OF THE SUBJECT.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

"Mother of the Old School," I fear, was very far from right in the views expressed in her article published in the TIMES of Dec. 18. I understand from the Bible that God made *man* and *woman* equal in all things. Some men, unfortunately, as well as some women, are unable to comprehend anything beyond the ordinary routine of life—indeed hardly that; but, thanks to the Almighty, these cases are becoming more rare every day. Our schools, colleges, churches, &c., show for themselves, and woman, noble woman, has at last taken the place her Maker assigned her from the beginning. Why did she not do so ages ago? Because man has always pushed her back, at every attempt to rise, and she, in her goodness of heart, stepped aside and let him pass, taking upon herself the sin of hiding her light under a bushel.

A good angel at last (in the shape of woman, of course,) came to her assistance, showing her the wrong not only to herself but to the world. She on the instant rose to the noble and hallowed duty so long neglected, and will soon reign triumphant. Men can gather herbs and make decoctions, manufacture medicine instruments, &c., and by that means be of great assistance to female physicians, making the work equal. The idea of a man at the bedside as physician, the bed of death perhaps is abhorrent to me. Men are too coarse for such sacred duties. They are naturally inclined to bustle and excitement.

Why do children run and hide when told the doctor is coming—and why do they on the contrary run too instead of from the female physician, knowing not fear in her presence? Do you suppose if my children are sick I would allow male hands, except those of my own family, to touch their little limbs? But the *female doctor* is quite welcome to take my little treasures in her arms, press her cool soft hand on his feverish brow, and he looks with his large eyes in her mild sympathetic face, saying, "Doctor, I will take anything you tell mama to give me." Oh, yes! Woman was born to minister to suffering humanity; *she sees, feels*, and she alone *knows* the pains, aches and ills that flesh is heir to. Again, I say, woman go on in your noble work; fear neither taunts nor jeers. They only proceed from the mouths of cowards, who would not dare to do so with their own sex. There are men and gentlemen in the profession (though they have sadly mistaken their calling,) whose blood boils with indignation when they hear of these insults from male students; they will take up the glove ere long, and order will reign supreme. Fathers will bless and honor physicians, thanking Heaven that the privacy of their wives' sick chamber need not be desecrated by a male stranger's heavy tread and rude eye. Mothers and children will bless and pray to our Heavenly Father to bless and prosper you in your glorious work.

MOTHER OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 19, 1864.

House Rent in New-York.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Allow me to protest against a very probable inference from your article on house rent in this city. Any stranger would suppose, after reading it, that landlords are taking advantage of the demand for middle-class houses, to demand extortion ate rents From my experience, and comparing rents with others, I am convinced that property of this sort is about the least productive a man can have, and the worst investment he can make, and that the rise in rents (for houses of this description,) has been *ridiculously small*, in comparison with the rise in prices.

It is my fortune, or misfortune, to own a few second and third-class houses in various parts of the city. I make no pretention to being a more generous landlord than my neighbor proprietors, and have no good reason to suppose mine an exceptional case. During the last four years the rent of one of these houses has been raised fifty per cent; the rents of the others, on an average, have been raised not quite twenty per cent. What has been the rise in prices meanwhile? More than one hundred per cent., putting foreign luxuries out of the question, and dealing merely with necessary provisions and home-made articles.

But it may be said these rents could not be raised any more, because they were exorbitantly high already. How is this? The old rule was, that stores and good business property of that description brought in ten per cent. rental on the value; a very respectable return, since even now, after paying one per cent. to Uncle Sam, and more than two per cent. to the city, and the other items of repairs, insurance, collection, &c., the owner may always depend on netting about six per cent. But ordinary dwellings, in the most favorable times, only return seven and a half per cent. on the gross, making five per cent. net, as the item of repairs is a very large one. At present, they net *three and a fraction per cent.* An immense profit, truly!

Of course, I do not include tenement houses, though even the profits of these are much exaggerated by popular report. Before the war, I owned some tenement houses of the better class. They netted eight and a fraction per cent.

Again, as to "the reservation of large tracts for speculative purposes." There are many localities on the island, *within six miles of City Hall*, where, on account of a bad neighborhood, (which vague term comprises everything, from an *unfashionable* neighborhood to one infested by terrible nuisances,) the price of land is scarcely more than nominal, and sales, if forced, would have to be made at great sacrifices. The unlucky proprietor, already out of pocket for many years' interest and taxes, does not wish to throw away his principal entirely, but prefers to wait, like Micawber, for something to turn up. You may call this speculation; I call it a very natural attempt at self-defence. It is of importance that these things should be clearly understood, now that the possibility of a land tax is agitated. Congress and the public ought to know that the real estate in our city cannot bear many additional burdens, and that any serious addition to those which it already sustains, must result in a virtual confiscation of the property, previous to which a large class of tenants would be ruined or driven out of New-York by, *what has never yet taken place*, a rise in rents proportioned to the rise in taxes and prices.

CARL BENSON.

The Tariff on Woolen Goods.

NEW-YORK, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1864.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

With your permission I should like to offer a few remarks on the article in the TIMES of Dec. 13, viz: "The Tariff on Imports and Public Revenue."

In that article you suggest as a means to increase our gold revenue, the reduction of the present Tariff, and incidentally allude to "Silks and Woolens" as among the articles to be reduced.

That the present Tariff is much too high on many articles—so much so as to shut off all revenue from many descriptions of goods—is quite evident. The Tariff might be reduced on paper and some other articles with benefit to the community at large and to the advantage of the Treasury.

On most, if not on all descriptions of dry goods, the present duties should remain as they are. Having been in the "Woolen Importing" business for the past fifteen years, I can safely assert that if the duty on foreign woolen should be reduced fifteen per cent., with the prospect of the premium on gold ruling at one hundred per cent. and over it, would not increase the importation of that class of dry goods five per cent.

Let it clearly be seen, however, by those engaged in the trade, that our financial and military prospects are such, that the premium on gold is likely to fall below 100 per cent., *and remain so*, and you will see the importation of dry goods increase at a rate that will satisfy anyone that does not desire to have a financial crash come upon us sooner than expected.

With gold at 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. premium, whenever that time may arrive, you will see, even with the present high tariff, more dry goods imported into this country than we can pay for, without heavy losses to some one.

What the country wants now, is that the tariff on dry goods should "be let alone," and in some legitimate way reduce the premium on gold.

Yours, &c., B. G.

Conversion of Secessionists—Meaning of the Late Election.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Whatever some radicals may claim, the question of annihilating the South, I presume, has never been seriously considered by either Mr. LINCOLN or his legal advisers. Mr. LINCOLN has declared that his whole object is to restore the Union, and to that end he has ever labored to encourage the Union sentiment in the Border States, his practical mind readily seeing the immense strength he can gain through conversion. Our armies have been called out and equipped, not only for crushing the armed foes of the country, but to give protection to Union men where their number was so small as to render it impossible for them to protect themselves.

Whenever our armies succeed in delivering a true Union man to his country, or Mr. LINCOLN's policy converts an honest Secessionist into an honest Union man, we have accomplished more than if we had killed one traitor, for we not only take a man from the Southern cause, but we add one to the cause of loyalty. On the extent of this conversion may possibly depend the ultimate success of our arms, and certainly the peace and prosperity of that section of our country, known as the disloyal States, for if even one half of the rebels survive this contest, and continue in their fanatical hatred to the Union, they will form bands of robbers and house-burners, under the name of guerrillas and rangers, to such an extent as to render it neither safe nor profitable for loyal men to settle in the section thus infected.

In time they may be hunted down and killed off, but with all vigilance on the part of our military authorities, it must take years to accomplish this thoroughly.

In summing up the Union gains within the last four years, we calculate the number of square miles we have wrested from the rebel armies, the number of forts, prisoners and guns we have captured and the privateers we have taken or destroyed, leaving out of the count one of our greatest gains, the men and country we have converted.

Our political contest is now over, and we can look upon things calmly and see what these elections have told us. When Mr. LINCOLN called for 75,000 men in 1861, the popular feeling of Maryland, Southwestern Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee was strongly opposed to coercion, if not in favor of throwing themselves with the South in her endeavors to resist the Administration in its efforts to enforce obedience to the laws. After the first Bull Run fight a majority certainly of the citizens of these States were Secessionists at heart, if not in action, while there was left scarcely Union sentiment enough to form a corporal's guard in any of the other Southern States. Let us see what has since been done in the way of conversion in this Southern territory. The late elections show that Mr. LINCOLN has received a large majority in both Maryland and West Virginia, showing that these States are not only loyal, but they are in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war; that they sustain the Administration in the enforcement of the draft and in all measures to restore the Union. This alone is a great victory, larger than the fall of Donelson or the capture of Vicksburgh, but this is not all—the vote that Mr. LINCOLN received is not a fair index to the loyalty of the Border States. While probably nearly all men who voted for Mr. LINCOLN are loyal, still a great many—probably most of the voters for Gen. MCCLELLAN—are loyal also; for I must believe that a large, yes, a very large majority of the people, are pure, and all men who voted in the Border States were sufficiently loyal, at least, to be willing to take the oath of allegiance to the United States. Tennessee, and such parts of East Virginia, Louisiana and Arkansas as are within the Union lines, would have been with Maryland if it had been thought best to allow them to cast an electoral vote. The cries of treason against the McClellan party may be well enough in the heat of an election canvass, but we cannot suppose that the Democratic vote is an index to the opposition in our country to restoring the Union without any disgraceful compromises. I do not believe that there is any considerable strength in any party in favor of this. Many men voted for Gen. MCCLELLAN because they thought him a good General, and honestly believed he would carry on the war more successfully than Mr. LINCOLN; many voted for MCCLELLAN through sympathy, believing he had been badly treated; many voted against Mr. LINCOLN because they feared the draft; many because our necessary national debt appalled them and they thought a Democratic Administration could retrench it; many hearing the exaggerated accounts of frauds committed by designing politicians, shoddy contractors and heartless speculators, voted against the Union party because they considered it corrupt; many were frightened by the shrewd and designing cry of their leaders against the infringement of personal liberty; more, than for any of these causes, perhaps, because they had been always Democrats, and looked upon their party as par excellence in all things that pertained to virtue or greatness, while some, perhaps, because they were Secessionists or tired of the war, and believed that the WOODS, PENDLETONS and VALLANDIGHAMS would force a peace upon the country at any price, however dishonorable; but, I apprehend, this latter motive instigated but few who were men of honor, property, intelligence or respectability. This being true, we find our country almost unanimous upon the one great question of saving the Union, though nearly every man has his own peculiar way of doing so. This is true, not only of the Northern States, but holds good with regard to Kentucky, though the proportion of Secessionists in this State is larger than in the States farther north.

We cannot possibly charge secession against such men as Gov. BRAMLETTE, or PRENTISS, of the Louisville *Journal*; yet they were strong supporters of this modern Democratic ticket.

We see from this that we have not only conquered a great portion of the original rebel territory and converted a large majority of the citizens of that territory, but we have many times doubled the Union sentiment in all the Border, or, as they were at one time called, the doubtful States.

Judging for the future by what has happened in the past, we will not only deliver a large Union sentiment as our armies march South, but we will find Secessionists rapidly turning from the error of their ways and making good, peaceable citizens.

Summing up the whole, the unanimity of the Northern people in favor of preserving the Union, and the rapid conversion of the mass of Southerners, as soon as the heel of the rebel tyrant is taken from their necks, leaves no doubt, not only of the future unity of our nation, but that our present horrible war will tend as a bond of unity instead of "a wall of fire and a charm of hatred" between the sections.

G. C.

Savannah Surrendered on the 17th inst.—Such is the latest rebel rumor. It matters little whether the story is true or false, seeing that the result is certain. Sherman's campaign is a good deal like a course of HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS. We know that the issue is only a question of time, and that according to the eternal laws of cause and effect, it must be salutary. As Sherman compels the rebels to yield, so this irresistible tonic annihilates dyspepsia, biliousness and nervous complaints, and like him, it helps to RE-ESTABLISH THE CONSTITUTION. Sold everywhere.

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No More Acceptable Present can be Given to old or young, than one of the ELLIPTIC LOCK-STITCH SEWING-MACHINES. No. 537 Broadway.

MARRIED.

MARTIN—LEWIS.—On Thursday, Dec. 22, by Rev. Edward T. Hiscox, FREDERICK MARTIN and SARAH E., daughter of Isaac Lewis, Esq.

DIED.

CABIN.—On Thursday, Dec. 23, EDWARD A. CABIN, eldest son of Lewis and Cornelia Cabin, aged 20 years, 9 months and 27 days.

The funeral service will take place at 3 o'clock this day, (Sunday,) at his residence, No. 104 Greene st. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend, without further notice.

CONANT.—On Thursday, Dec. 22, ABEL B. CONANT, M. D., Surgeon of the late 7th Ky. Regiment of Volunteers.

Friends are invited to attend the funeral, at 1 P. M. on Sunday, Dec. 25, at the residence of his brother, Dr. D. S. Conant, No. 27 East 24th-st., without further notice.

CALDWELL.—In this city, on Friday, Dec. 23, MARY FRANCES, only daughter of James W. and Sarah S. Caldwell, aged 1 year and 16 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her parents, No. 148 West 43d-st., on Sunday, the 25th inst., at 2 o'clock, without further notice. The remains will be interred in Greenwood Cemetery.

FERGUSON.—On Saturday, Dec. 24, ROBERT A. FERGUSON, only child of John and Jane Ferguson, in the 7th year of his age.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his parents, No. 192 West 27th-st., on Monday, the 26th inst., at 1 o'clock.

HOWELL.—On Saturday, Dec. 24, at Fordham, ELIZA B., wife of R. S. Howell, in the 27th year of her age.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday, at 10 A. M., from her late residence.

MAY.—On Saturday, Dec. 24, Col. CHARLES A. MAY, formerly of the U. S. Army, aged 46 years.

Funeral will take place on Monday, the 26th inst., at 12 o'clock, from the New-York Hotel.

STEELE.—On Friday evening, Dec. 24, LIDIE, daughter of George and Mary Steele, aged 3 years and 8 months.

The funeral will take place on Monday, the 26th inst., from their residence, No. 158 West 17th-st., at 1½ o'clock.

VALENTINE.—On Thursday, Dec. 22, CARRIE, only daughter of David and Caroline M. Valentine, aged 3 years and 4 months.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Sunday, the 25th inst., at 2 o'clock P. M., from No. 196 Washington-st., Brooklyn.

WILLIAMS.—On Saturday morning, Dec. 24, CATHERINE H., widow of John L. Williams, in the 53d year of her age.

The relatives and friends, and those of her sons, William L. and Edwin F., also those of her son-in-law, John R. Lyng, are respectfully invited to attend her funeral, this day, (Sunday,) Dec. 25, at 2 o'clock, from her late residence, No. 2 Irving-place.

HOLIDAY GOODS
IN GREAT VARIETY.
HAVILAND, MERRITT & CO.,
500 BROADWAY,
nearly opposite St. Nicholas Hotel.

EAGLE GAS STOVES,
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Every stove warranted as represented.
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FOR SALE—A FILE OF THE NEW-YORK TIMES complete, including the Sunday edition, from Dec. 1, 1860, to the present time. Apply to or address SUBSCRIPTION CLERK, *Times* office.

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The balance of our Wholesale Stock is to be closed out at a reduction of
25 PER CENT.

FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEARS'
J. MARC MARTIN,
Importer of
CHOICE WINES, BRANDIES, ETC.,
No. 203 PEARL-ST., NEW-YORK.
ALL GOODS WARRANTED STRICTLY PURE, and sent to all parts of the country at the lowest trade prices.

ARCHBISHOP HUGHES' MEMORIAL.

The memorial prepared by order of the Corporation of this city relative to the death of the late Archbishop Hughes, is now on
FREE EXHIBITION,
by order of the Special Committee having charge of the same, at the piano warerooms of Julius Bauer & Co., No. 544 Broadway, between Spring and Prince sts., from 9 A. M. to 8 P. M.

FANS, NEW STYLES, JUST RECEIVED FROM PARIS.
TWO, THREE, FIVE, EIGHT, TEN, TWELVE, FIFTEEN to THIRTY DOLLARS EACH. For sale by GEO. C. ALLEN, No. 415 Broadway, one door below Canal-st.

EAR-RINGS AND PINS,
New Styles—Just received. THREE, FIVE, SEVEN, TEN, TWELVE, FIFTEEN, TWENTY-FIVE to ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS a set. For sale by GEORGE C. ALLEN, No. 415 Broadway, one door below Canal-st.

SEAL RINGS FOR GENTLEMEN,
FINE GOLD—New Styles—SIX, EIGHT, TEN, TWELVE, FIFTEEN, TWENTY-FIVE to ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS each. For sale by GEO. C. ALLEN, No. 415 Broadway, one door below Canal-st.

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Fine and medium grades Sherries, Ports, Champagnes, Bourbon, Cordials, Sauces, Preserves, Fruits, Cigars, etc. G. E. MENDUM, No. 75 Chambers-st., near Broadway.

LADIES' BRACELETS—NEW STYLES.
TWO, THREE, FIVE, SIX, EIGHT, TEN, TWELVE, FIFTEEN to TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS each. For sale by G. C. ALLEN, No. 415 Broadway, one door below Canal-st.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC CHARITIES AND CORRECTION, No. 1 BOND-ST., Dec. 24, 1864.

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, held at their office, this day, present, Commissioners Draper, Bell, Nicholson, Grinnell, the following communication was received:

BLACKWELL'S ISLAND, Dec. 24, 1864.

To the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction:

GENTLEMEN—The good Father JOSEPH PAVARELLI departed this life, last night, at the Island Hospital, of typhoid fever, making the third who has died in the space of three years of that disease, contracted in the performance of religious duties.

I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
Rev. FATHER MARSHAL, S. J.

On which the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the Commissioners having before them the evidence of devotion and death, deem it their privilege as well as their duty to record, with appropriate recognition, their appreciation of the service of Father JOSEPH PAVARELLI, who, while ministering with faithfulness and fidelity to the poor and unfortunate, has fallen a victim to the dread disease which has numbered within three years, three Fathers in the same faith, while pursuing their perilous journey through the pathway of duty.

Resolved, That the character and deportment which marked the performance of his services, command the respect and gratitude of the individual, as well as official regard of the Commissioners.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to His Grace Archbishop MCCLOSKEY.

S. DRAPER, President,
ISAAC BELL, Secretary,
JAMES B. NICHOLSON,
MOSES H. GRINNELL, } Commissioners.

SORE THROAT, DIPHTHERIA, COUGHS, COLDS, AND ALL THROAT AFFECTIONS.—J. C. Rushton's Troches pleasant to the taste, beneficial and highly recommended by eminent physicians. J. C. RUSHTON, Chemist and Druggist, only at No. 417 Broadway, corner Canal-st.

BUY YOUR FINE AND MEDIUM QUALITY of Bourbon at MENDUM'S, Chambers-st., next door to Broadway. Prices range from $3 to $8. Choice and medium grade Champagnes from $25 to $50 per basket. Sherry, Port and Cordials cheap and good. G. E. MENDUM, Importer, No. 75 Chambers-st.

DIAMOND RINGS
Of all descriptions, from TWENTY-FIVE, FIFTY, SEVENTY-FIVE, ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR AND FIVE HUNDRED TO TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS each. For sale by GEORGE C. ALLEN, No. 415 Broadway, one door below Canal-st., formerly No. 11 Wall-st.

INDISPENSABLE—MENDUM'S NECTAR Bourbon; excellent in quality, moderate in price. Open on Monday, 26th, till 1 P. M. No. 75 Chambers-st., one door from Broadway.

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G. E. MENDUM, Proprietor.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE "TIMES" REVIEW OF McCLELLAN
BY WILLIAM SWINTON.
PRICE 15 CENTS.

A few copies of this valuable document, which has attracted so much attention, are for sale at the TIMES Office. Sent by mail, postage free, on receipt of 15 cents.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

FORTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE Sabbath-school connected with the Reformed Dutch Church in 34th-st., between 8th and 9th avs. Singing by 500 children. Addresses by Rev. Dr. BELLS, of Brooklyn, and the Pastor, Rev. P. STRYKER—CHRISTMAS EVENING, Dec. 25. Exercises commencing at 7½ o'clock. Come early to get seats.
C. C. OVERTON, Sec. W. P. HALSTED, Supt.

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS festival of the JUVENILE MISSIONARY SOCIETY will be held on MONDAY, 26th inst., at 10½ o'clock A. M., in the Sands-st. M. E. Church, Brooklyn. Appropriate exercises by the children and addresses by Rev. J. M. THOBURN and Rev. JOHN MCCLINTOCK, D. D.
DANIEL B. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

THE CONGREGATION OF GRACE CHURCH, Harlem, Rev. WM. MOWBRAY, Rector.—Worship every SUNDAY AFTERNOON at 3 o'clock P. M., in the Methodist Church, corner 119th-st., in 2d-av.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

HOWARD MISSION AND HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS, 37 New-Bowery, near Chatham-square, Rev. W. C. VAN METER, Superintendent.—Five hundred and twenty-nine children are at our table. Exercises appropriate to Christmas will be held on SABBATH P. M., at 2 o'clock. Mr. VAN METER will address a meeting in behalf of the mission, on SABBATH MORNING, at 10½ o'clock, in the Baptist Church, 25th-st., between 6th-av. and Broadway, and at 7½ o'clock, in the Bethesda Baptist Church, 33d-st., near 8th-av. Several interesting children from the mission will be present, and sing some of their sweetest songs.

NEW YORK PORT SOCIETY'S MARINERS' CHURCHES.—Preaching on SABBATH, 25th inst., by the Pastor, Rev. E. D. MURPHY, corner of Catherine and Madison sts., at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. Also, corner of Madison and Gouverneur sts., by the Pastor, Rev. A. G. CHAMBERS, at 10½ A. M. and 3½ P. M., and preaching corner Dover and Water streets, at 3 P. M. Seamen and friends cordially invited. Seats free.

SEVENTH-ST. M. E. CHURCH, BETWEEN 2d and 3d avs.—Christmas anniversary; early prayer meeting at 6 o'clock A. M.; Christmas sermon to the children at 10½ o'clock A. M. The Badeau Temperance Society of the Sunday school will be addressed by Rev. L. H. KING, and at 7 o'clock P. M. the Pastor, Rev. F. BOTTOME, will preach a sermon to the young, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association of the Church. Seats free.

FAREWELL MISSIONARY MEETING—A meeting, under the auspices of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Dutch Church, will be held on SUNDAY EVENING, at 7½ o'clock, in Mr. GANSE's Church, 23d-st., between 6th and 7th avs., to take leave of missionaries about to sail for Amoy, China. Rev. Dr. DE WITT will preside. Addresses may be expected from the missionaries, Rev. JOHN V. N. TALMAGE and J. HOWARD VAN DOREN, and from Rev. H. D. GANSE.

ADVENT SERMONS.—PROF. MATTISON, IS to preach ON SUNDAY, on "The Two Advents," at 10½ A. M., on "*The True Significance of the Birth of Christ*," and at 7½ P. M., on "*The First and Second Advents Contrasted.*" The FAIR AND FESTIVAL in the church, 4th-st., near 6th-av., will close THIS EVENING. Don't fail to give them a call and help on a good object.

MEMORIAL CHURCH, HAMMOND-ST., corner Waverley-place. Rev. JOHN A. ASPINWALL, Rector of Christ Church, Bay Ridge, will preach SUNDAY (Christmas) EVENING. Services at 10½, 3½, and 7½ o'clock. Free seats. The Ninth Anniversary of the Sunday School will be held in the Church on MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 26, at 7 o'clock.

NEW-YORK YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—Rev. WM. ADAMS, D.D., will preach by request of the Association, in the Mercer-st. Presbyterian Church, (Rev. R. R. BOOTH'S,) near Clinton-place, on SUNDAY EVENING at 7½ o'clock. The public are invited.

RECTOR OF THE CHURCH OF THE Holy Trinity, Rev. STEPHEN H. TYNG, Jr., will preach in the Unitarian Church, 40th-st., between 5th and 6th-avs., on next and every SUNDAY EVENING at 7½ o'clock. Morning and evening services, with sermons, are held in the Rutgers Institute Chapel, 5th-av., between 41st and 42d sts., at 10½ A. M. and 3 P. M.

THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL of the South Dutch Church will be celebrated in the church, corner 5th-av. and 21st-st., on SUNDAY AFTERNOON. Addresses will be delivered by Mr. WM. E. DODGE, Jr., and the Pastor, Rev. E. P. ROGERS, D. D. Appropriate pieces of music will be sung by the school. Exercises to commence at 3 o'clock.

BELIEVERS IN THE SECOND COMING of Christ and future "life for the righteous," only worship at Botanic Hall, No. 68 East Broadway. Preaching on SUNDAY, by Elder S. W. BISHOP, at 10½ A. M. and 3 P. M. Subject afternoon—*Future Punishment.* All are cordially invited to attend. Seats free.

ST. CLEMENT'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH—Amity-st., near Macdougal. Divine service every SUNDAY, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P.M. The Sexton will be at the Church every WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY, from 9 to 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of renting pews or seats.

THIRTY-SEVENTH-STREET M. E. CHURCH—Between 2d and 3d avs.—Rev. W. H. BOOLE, Pastor, will preach at 10½ A. M. and 7 P. M. Subject of morning discourse: "*And His Name Shall be Called Wonderful.*" Prayer meeting at 6 P. M. The Sunday School Exhibition will take place on Thursday evening, Dec. 29, at 7½ P. M.

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN BAPTIST, (EPIScopal,) Lexington-av., corner 35th-st., CHRISTMAS DAY. Rev. CORNELIUS R. DUFFIE, Rector, will preach on SUNDAY MORNING AND EVENING. Services at 10½ and 7 o'clock. The anniversary of the Sunday School will be held in the EVENING, when books will be given to the children. On this occasion, seats free.

THE CHAPEL CONNECTED WITH THE Collegiate Reform Protestant Dutch Church, in 48th-st., near 5th-av., will be opened for Divine Service on SUNDAY MORNING, 25th Dec., at 10½ o'clock A. M., and 3 P. M. Opening service to be conducted by Rev. Dr. VERMILYE, one of the Pastors.

THE LEARNED RABBI AND THE RUINED SINNER; or, Regeneration is Actual, not Metaphoric.—WILLIAM MORRIS, of Philadelphia, will, the Lord willing, preach on the above subject on SUNDAY EVENING, the 25th inst., at 7½ o'clock, in the University Buildings, Washington-square. Seats free.

ST. ANN'S FREE CHURCH—EIGHTEENTH-st., near 5th-av. On SUNDAY, Rev. E. BENJAMIN will preach at 7½ A. M. and Rev. Dr. GALLAUDET at 10½ A. M., 3 and 7½ P. M.,—the afternoon service for deaf mutes. It being Christmas Day, the communion will be administered at both the morning services.

CHURCH OF THE RECONCILIATION, in 31st-st., between 2d and 3d avs., Rev. B. S. HUNTINGTON, Rector.—Services morning and evening. The seats in this Church are free. Families in the vicinity, not otherwise provided with church accommodation, are respectfully invited to attend the services.

JOHN-ST. M. E. CHURCH.—REV. S. C. KEELER, Pastor, will preach on SUNDAY, at 10½ A. M., and at 7 P. M. Seats free. Strangers are cordially invited to attend. Daily Union Prayer-meeting from 12 to 1 o'clock.

REV. THOS. ARMITAGE, D. D., WILL preach in the Elm-place Congregational Church, Brooklyn, on SUNDAY MORNING at 10½ o'clock; in the evening at 7½ o'clock, Rev. CHAS. S. ROBINSON.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES—9th-av. and 28th-st. Sunday evening services during the Winter at 7½ P. M. Seats free at these services. Sermon on CHRISTMAS EVENING: *The Word Taketh Flesh.*

REV. C. S. PERKINS WILL PREACH IN the First F. W. Baptist Church, 28th-st., on SUNDAY, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. The Christmas meeting of the Sabbath School will be held at 2 P. M. The friends are invited.

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH—Attorney-st. Rev. WM. R. HAMMOND, Pastor, will preach on SUNDAY MORNING, at 10½ o'clock, and EVENING at 7 o'clock. Afternoon, at 3 o'clock, love feast. Seats free.

BAPTIST MARINERS' MISSION CHURCH.—Services on SUNDAY, (corner of Oliver and Henry sts.,) at 10½. J. M DAVIS preaches. At 3, Rev. Mr. FULLER, Pastor Cannon-st. Church; at 7½, Sabbath-school concert. All the seats are free.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH.—PREACHing by the Pastor, Rev. R. J. W. BUCKLAND, at the Calvary Baptist Church, West 23d-st., between 5th and 6th avs., at 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M., SUNDAY, the 25th inst.

ALL SAINTS PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, corner Henry and Scammel sts., Rev S. J. CORNEILLE, Pastor. On CHRISTMAS (Sunday, Dec. 25,) there will be a service in this Church, at 10½ A. M. Strangers invited to attend.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Broome-st., two blocks east from Broadway. Preaching by the Pastor, Rev. JAMES B. DUNN, 10½ A. M. and 7½ Evening. Subject in continuation of the course—"*Christiana's Pilgrims.*"

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION—MADIson-av. and 135th-st. There will be divine service and sermon in the Church on Sunday evening, (CHRISTMAS DAY,) at 7½ o'clock. The childrens' Christmas tree will be lighted at 6 P. M. on Saturday evening.

TAKE NOTICE.—IMPORTANT.—"DO ALL Persons who Die in Infancy go to Heaven?"—Subject of Prof. SMYTH's sermon at Clinton Hall, under the Mercantile Library, Astor-place, near Broadway, at 7½ o'clock, on SUNDAY NIGHT, the 25th inst., (D. V.)

CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT ZION.—BISHOP SNOW, of the Second Advent Church, will preach in Hope Chapel, No. 720 Broadway, on SUNDAY, at 3 P. M. Seats free. Subject—*Christ as He was, and is to Come.*

THE CHURCH OF THE NEW-JERUSALEM, on 35th-st., between 4th and Lexington avs., is open every SABBATH, at 10½ A. M. and 7½ o'clock P. M. Subject of lecture TO-MORROW EVENING—*The Incarnation; or the First Coming of the Lord.*

CHURCH OF THE MEDIATOR—LEXINGton-av. and East 30th-st. Hours of Service 10½ A. M. and 7½ P. M. The Rev. Dr. THEODORE IRVING, Rector-elect, will preach on both occasions.

FIVE POINTS HOUSE OF INDUSTRY—No. 155 Worth-st.—The religious services of this institution will be held in their new Chapel, on SUNDAY, at 3 and 7 P. M. Singing by a choir of two hundred children.

THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF Progress meet every SUNDAY MORNING and EVENING at Dodworth Hall, No. 806 Broadway. Mr. J. S. LOVELAND is expected to speak, to-day, at 10½ and 7½ o'clock. Seats free.

REV. J. C. DUTCHER WILL PREACH SUNDAY, 25th inst., in the Dutch Reformed Church Market-st., corner of Henry, services commencing at 10½ in the morning and 7½ in the evening.

ST. PAUL'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL Church, corner of 4th-av. and 22d-st. Preaching in the morning by Rev. Dr. MCCLINTOCK, and in the evening by Rev. Mr. OTHEMAN.

CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH—SIXteenth-st., between 6th and 7th avs. Rev. WM. W. ANDREWS will preach, on SUNDAY EVENING, 25th inst., at 7½ o'clock.

CHRISTMAS.—REV. C. C. GOSS WILL LECture on *Why we should Keep Christmas, and How to Keep it*, SUNDAY EVENING, at 7½ o'clock, in the Church in Grand-st., one block west of Broadway.

NOTICE.—REV. DR. SHEDD WILL PREACH IN the Presbyterian Church on University-place, (late Dr. POTTS',) SUNDAY, at 10½ o'clock in the morning, and Rev. CHAUNCEY D. MURRY in the afternoon, at 3½.

REV. THOS. ARMITAGE, D. D., WILL preach in the Madison-av. Baptist Church, corner of 31st-st., THIS AFTERNOON, at 3 o'clock.

NOTICE.—WASHINGTON HALL, CORNER OF 18th-st. and 8th-av. Preaching on SUNDAY, at 10½ and 3 o'clock, by Mr. WITTS, of Bridgworth, England.

EARLY CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT 6½ A. M., at Church of the Holy Innocents, in 37th-st., near Broadway.

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH.—A DESIRABLE pew to rent on the south aisle. Apply to the Sexton.

FINANCIAL.

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A large majority of the stock of this company having been already taken in New-York and Philadelphia, the subscription books will remain open but a few days longer, at the offices named below.

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This company is organized under the laws of the State of New-York. The principal office is No. 71 Broadway, with branch offices in Philadelphia and Baltimore, for the convenience of subscribers, where the certificates of stock will be issued to subscribers as soon as scrip-books are ready, without delay. The property has been selected with great care during the last three years, by those of the Directors who have been constantly operating on Oil Creek, and throughout the entire oil region of Pennsylvania, as well as Western Virginia, and was not selected to sell, but for the ostensible purpose of development and producing oil, having now some ten wells under contract, and being bored with vigor. Every acre of this company's property is bottom, and the best of boring land, much of it on Oil Creek, Cherry Run, Cherry Tree Creek, Walnut Bend, Allegany River, and other streams where the lands are being developed with good success.

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All denominations ready for immediate delivery. One-quarter per cent. commission allowed in all cases, and liberal terms made with Banks, Bankers, and Dealers.
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ISSUE COMMERCIAL AND TRAVELERS' CREDITS FOR USE IN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD.

Office of the Mariposa Company, No. 34 Wall-st., New-York.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT AT the drawing this day made of twenty-five of the First Mortgage Bonds of the Company for redemption, the following Bonds numbered 80, 116, 141, 242, 293, 319, 400, 451, 464, 552, 606, 612, 748, 757, 765, 842, 857, 945, 990, 1087, 1168, 1217, 1314, 1372, 1383, were drawn by lot, and that the same will be paid in Gold, on presentation at the office of the Company on MONDAY, the 2d day of January next, the first day of the month being Sunday. The Bonds so drawn must be presented for payment within ten days of the 1st day of January next, under penalty of the forfeiture of the right of redemption under this drawing. By order of the Board.
DATED 5th Dec., 1864. W. TITUS, Secretary.

Office of the Mariposa Company, No. 34 Wall-st., New-York.

Notice is hereby given, that the Coupons of the First Mortgage Bonds of the Company, falling due on the 1st day of January next, will be paid in Gold, on presentation at the office of the Company, on and after MONDAY, the 2d day of January next.
DATED 5th Dec., 1864. W. TITUS, Secretary.

State of Illinois, Treasurer's Office, Springfield, Dec. 7, 1864.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Treasurer of the State of Illinois will, on and after the first MONDAY of January next, until the 16th day of said month inclusive, be ready, at the American Exchange Bank, in the city of New-York, to pay the interest maturing on the first Monday of January, 1865, on the Public Debt of the State of Illinois.

The interest then due, and not called for prior to the said 16th day of January, 1865, will thereafter be paid only at the office of the Treasurer of the State of Illinois, in the city of Springfield.

Holders of Illinois and Michigan Canal Bonds, with coupons exhausted, are required to present the bonds.
ALEXANDER STARNE, State Treasurer of Illinois.

Office of Shelden and Columbia Copper Co., No. 22 William-st., New-York, Nov. 29, 1864.

SALES OF FORFEITED STOCK.—THE following stock in the Sheldon and Columbia Copper Company is forfeited for non-payment of installment due Sept. 26, 1864, and that the same will be sold at public auction at the office of the Secretary of the company, No. 22 William-st., on the 31st day of December, at 3 o'clock P. M., unless previously redeemed, viz.: Certificate No. 33, name of W. H. Morton, 50 shares; No. 20, John Simpkins, 25 shares; No. 49, B. F. Woodward, 5 shares; No. 55, Herman Brahe, 25 shares; No. 72, James M. Shute, Jr., 50 shares; No. 77, John Richardson, 25 shares.
HENRY PHELPS, Secretary.

GOODYEAR BROTHERS & DURAND,
BANKERS,
NO. 18 BROAD-ST., NEW-YORK.
Interest allowed on accounts subject to check at sight, as with banks. Collections on all accessible points at the lowest rates.
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CHAS. GOODYEAR, Banker, Schoharie Co. Bank.
GEO. GOODYEAR, New-Haven, Conn.
GEO. G. GOODYEAR. HARVEY DURAND.

The Central National Bank of the City of New-York, New-York, Dec. 8, 1864.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Stockholders of this Bank, for the choice of a Board of Directors, and the transaction of such other business as may come legally before them, will be held at the Banking Rooms, No. 318 Broadway, on the 10th day of January next (being the second Tuesday of the month), commencing at 10 A. M. and closing at 4 P. M.
W. H. FOSTER, Cashier.

Office of M. K. Jesup & Co., No. 59 Exchange-place, Corner Broad-st., New-York, Dec. 22, 1864.

COUPONS OF CHICAGO AND ALTON Railroad, first mortgage bonds; COUPONS of Joliet and Chicago Railroad, first mortgage bonds; COUPONS of Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad, first mortgage bonds, and COUPONS of Dubuque and Southwestern Railroad, preferred first mortgage bonds, due Jan. 1, 1865, will be paid at our office on and after the 3d day of January next, less Government tax.
M. K. JESUP & CO.

FINANCIAL.

PROSPECTUS
FOR THE PURCHASE OF
100,000 ACRES,
IN FEE SIMPLE, OF
OIL,
COAL, IRON, SALT, TIMBER AND
AGRICULTURAL LAND
IN
WEST VIRGINIA,
AT $8 85 PER ACRE,
AND FOR PROVIDING A CASH CAPITAL OF $90,000 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS
IMMENSE RESOURCES,
TITLE INDISPUTABLE,
Having been adjudicated by the United States Courts.

THE PURCHASE DIVIDED INTO 650 PARTS, AT $1,500 EACH.

NO PAYMENTS required until all the parts are subscribed for, when, after 15 days' notice, they will be made to JOHN P. YELVERTON, Esq., President of the Bank of North America, who has consented to receive the subscription money in trust.

A STOCK COMPANY will be formed on the basis of these 100,000 acres as soon as all the parts are subscribed for, and the Trustees thereof, to be selected by a majority of the parties in interest, will receive the legal title to the property, and also the $90,000 cash capital, to be obtained by the disposal of these parts; said capital to be used by the Company in boring oil wells and otherwise developing the property.

THE ASCERTAINED VALUE of this tract of land, which is by far the largest and cheapest ever offered to the public, with a perfect and settled title, is sufficient to warrant the organization of the Company as contemplated, with a capital which would give each of the 650 parts at least $10,000 for the $1,500 paid in—an amount to be largely increased in value by the development of the property. But when the vastness of the tract, the existence of coal, iron and other mineral substances, and the production of oil, are considered, it will be seen that there is a basis for the organization of not only one but many companies, as a majority of in interest may determine. Should more than one company be formed, the division of stock will be proportionately greater. And if even a moiety of the oil found in Oil Creek is obtained in the Guyandotte Valley—as there is no reason to doubt from the geological formation of the country and discoveries already made, which are fully explained in the published pamphlets—there is area enough for a large number of companies, with almost any amount of capital.

THIS TRACT of one hundred thousand acres is situated easterly of, on and near the Guyandotte River, in Cabell County, West Virginia, and in a direct line about twelve miles south of the Ohio. It is well watered by the Guyandotte and the Mud Rivers, and their numerous tributaries and creeks, and affords an immense oil boring territory, with easy access to all its various parts, and by the slack water navigation of the Guyandotte River to the Ohio, and thence to all the markets of the country.

THE EXISTENCE OF PETROLEUM in this property cannot be doubted. It is, in truth, established by the SINKING OF TWO WELLS; the presence of oil on the surface of the numerous creeks, in the crevices of rock, by the shale that Professor Locke in his report called an "UNCTUOUS CLAY," and in the saline spring, "FROM WHICH IT HAD TO BE TUBED OUT YEARS AGO." Beside these there are all the other indications noticed in the great oil regions, and in addition there is the unquestionable fact—settled by scientific examination—that the so-called oil belt, as running in a southwesterly direction from the great petroleum regions of Pennsylvania, STRIKES THIS LAND AND RUNS DIRECTLY THROUGH IT to the Burning Springs of the Big Sandy. So that, while the existence of coal, iron, salt, timber, fertile soil, &c., give to the property a value very far beyond the purchase price, the production of oil will, when we consider the extent of the property, increase its worth to an amount almost beyond calculation.

BITUMINOUS AND CANNEL COALS, in seams of an aggregate thickness above water level, of from twenty-three to twenty-eight feet, are known to underlie it in exhaustless quanties. Besides this, there are

EXTENSIVE IRON BEDS, with limestone for fluxing; SALT SPRINGS, and also

VALUABLE TIMBER of every description. The climate is all that could be desired, while the lands for

AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES are abundantly proven to be equal in quality to those on the Ohio side.

Letter from Granville Parker, Esq., brother of Dr. Willard Parker, of New-York.

Mr. G. Parker, in a letter dated Nov. 9, 1864, relative to these lands, says, (speaking of the title as settled in the U. S. Court of Western Virginia:)

At the April term of said Court, 1859, at Charleston, Kanawha County, a trial was had before a jury, with Judge Brockenborough presiding, which lasted thirty-one days, and resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff, and at the April term, 1860, a judgment upon the verdict. * * * The title, therefore, has been judicially settled by one of the ablest courts in the country.

* * * * * * *

As the value of Petroleum Oil was unappreciated when the eminent geologists explored the property in 1851, and so neither looked for, nor spoken of by them, I will briefly state what the prospects are in this respect, so far as they have come to my knowledge. The geographical position and geological formation of the property, as exhibited by the maps and reports, are eminently favorable, being IDENTICAL WITH LOCATIONS THAT YIELD IN GREAT ABUNDANCE. The burning springs upon the Little and Great Kanawha, on the one side, and upon the Big Sandy on the other, are very indicative of what intervenes. My attention was first called to the subject in March, 1861. Gentlemen of Marietta, Ohio, viz.: Messrs. MILLS AND WATERS, PRESIDENT AND CASHIER OF THE MARIETTA BANK, AND THE TWO MESSRS. ANDREWS, CONNECTED WITH THE MARIETTA COLLEGE—one as its President and the other as Professor of Geology—sent an agent to explore the Guyandotte country, and, upon his report, a company of twenty was formed, including himself and the gentlemen before named, with myself and others of Cabell County. We at once commenced sinking two wells, one near the Guyandotte Falls, and the other near Salt Rock Dam, near our lower line, and in the vicinity of old salt wells, worked some fifty years ago, when gas and gum all troubled them much, and they tubed it out. We had sunk these wells about sixty feet when hostilities commenced, which obliged us to abandon them. OIL WAS DISCOVERED in small quantities, and the gentleman superintending the work having had large experience in the business, expressed entire confidence of success. The surface indications were everywhere favorable, AT MANY PLACES THE OIL SHOWING ITSELF IN THE CREEKS, and I was informed that, in some localities of our tract, gas was emitted, which, when ignited, burned for days.

The inexhaustible stores of coals of every description, except anthracite, with the iron and salt which are known to underlie the property; the forests of valuable timber of every kind which cover much of its surface, render the property, in my judgment, second to none other of the kind in the country. And with the oil that does exist, though in quantities undetermined, superadded, possess a value, when properly managed and brought out, almost without calculation. With great respect, I remain, yours truly, G. PARKER.

For letters and reports of Professor Locke, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Professor Buchanan, of London, England; Col. Parker, of Wellsburgh, West Virginia; A. M. Burt, Esq., of New-York; R. C. Taylor, Esq., Gen. McNeil and L. A. Sykes, Esq., and for the official reports of Professors Rogers, Shepherd and Gill to the Board of Public Works of Virginia, and of Col. Moore, corroborating all that is said above in regard to the immense value and resources of the property, see published pamphlets which can be obtained at the office of the following gentlemen, where SUBSCRIPTIONS from persons who wish to participate in the profits to be derived from the purchase of this most valuable land will be received:

C. V. B. OSTRANDER, President Merchants' Insurance Company, No. 106 Broadway.
AMOS F. HATFIELD, President Pacific Insurance Company, No. 474 Broadway.
S. C. HARRIOT, President Greenwich Insurance Company, No. 8 Pine-st.
JOSEPH WILDE, of Samuel Wilde & Sons, Nos. 9 and 11 Dutch-st.
ISAAC BERNHEIMER, of Bernheimer Brothers, No. 320 Broadway, corner of Pearl-st.
EBEN B. CROCKER, firm of Crocker & Warren, No. 148 Pearl-st.
Messrs. BEARDS & CUMMINGS, No. 128 Front-st.
H. H. IRVINE, No. 113 Maiden-lane.
H. P. TOWNSEND, No. 13 Chambers-st.
JOHN J. MORRIS, No. 59 University-place.
Messrs. BEADLESTON & PRICE, 189 West 10th-st.
CHARLES DE BEVOISE, No. 50 Vesey-st.
JAMES W. UNDERHILL, No. 79 Dey-st.
Messrs. PACKER & KNAPP, No. 289 Washington Market.
Messrs. COMBS & NIX, No. 389 West Washington Market.
And EDGAR E. HOLLEY, Globe Insurance Company, corner of Fulton and Greenwich sts.

Reference is also made to Messrs CUMMINS, ALEXANDER & GREENE, Counselors at Law, No. 30 Exchange-place.

NOBLE AND DELEMATER ROCK OIL COMPANY
OF NEW-YORK.
Office No. 67 Wall-st.
100,000 Shares. Par Value $3. $300,0000.
Stock full paid, no future assessments.
This Company has an ample working capital, with an interest in the now largest producing well on Oil Creek.
OFFICERS:
John J. Morris, Pres. Isaac A. Quackenboss, Vice-Pres.
Isaac Bemheimer, Trea. J. H. Ketcham, Secretary.
William Norton, Counsel.
TRUSTEES.
John J. Morris, Isaac O. Barker,
Isaac A. Quackenboss, Henry Cohn,
Isaac Bemheimer, Smith Barker, Jr.
John H. Rhodes.

H. J. MESSENGER,
BANKER,
NO. 139 BROADWAY,
Will receive subscriptions to the NEW 7-30 TREASURY NOTES, and 10-40 BONDS, and allow the usual commissions.
We buy and sell at market rates,
U. S. 5-20 BONDS,
U. S. 6s, OF 1881,
U. S. ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATES,
U. S. QUARTERMASTER'S CHECKS.
U. S. 7-30 NOTES converted into 6s of '81.
U. S. CERTIFICATES COLLECTED.
Also, Gold, Silver, Canada and Uncurrent Money Bought and Sold at best rates.
ACCOUNTS of Banks, Bankers and Individuals received on favorable terms.

Office Wells, Fargo & Co., No. 84 Broadway, New-York, Oct. 26, 1864.

TELEGRAPH TRANSFERS OF MONEY TO CALIFORNIA AND OREGON made, and Exchange on
SAN FRANCISCO,
LONDON,
DUBLIN and
PARIS.
For sale by
WELLS, FARGO & CO.

COMMISSIONER FOR NEW-JERSEY and other States—No. 5 Beekman-st., Room No. 8, first floor over Park Bank.

FINANCIAL.

HENRY A. HEISER & SON,
NO. 44 PINE ST.,
DEALERS IN
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES
BUY AND SELL
QUARTERMASTERS' CHECKS AND VOUCHERS,
5-20 BONDS,
1-YEAR CERTIFICATES,
7-30 LOAN, AND EVERY FORM OF U. S. SECURITIES.

We invite the attention of Banks and parties desiring short investments to our assortment of United States Six per Cent. Debt Certificates. We have them on hand due in every month of the year, at rates that pay better in terest than any security in the market.

FISK & HATCH
BANKERS,
and dealers in Government Securities,
No. 38 Wall-st.,
receive orders for the
NEW 7-30 LOAN
and have the notes always on hand for
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.
☞ Banks, Bankers and Dealers supplied on favorable terms.
☞ All kinds of Government Securities bought and sold at market rates.

OIL CREEK PETROLIUM COMPANY.
SIXTH MONTHLY DIVIDEND.
The trustees of this company have this day declared the regular monthly dividend of one per cent. for the month ending Dec 15, payable at the office of the Company, Continental Bank Building, No. 7 Nassau-st., Jan. 15, 1865. Transfer books close Jan. 10.
O. R. INGERSOLL, Treasurer.

Office of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, No. 29 William-st., corner of Exchange-place, New-York, Dec. 20, 1864.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.—IN PURsuance of authority given at a meeting of the stockholders of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, held on the 21st day of April last, there will be apportioned among such persons as shall be stockholders in said Company on the 12th day of January next, twelve thousand five hundred shares of new stock, in the ratio of one share to every seven shares of stock then held by each stockholder; certificates of stock so apportioned will be ready for delivery to those entitled to the same, on and after the 1st day of February next, (same day on which the usual cash dividend will be paid.)

No scrip will be issued for fractions of a share, but the number of shares representing the aggregate of such fractions will be sold at public auction on the 26th day of January, and the net proceeds will be paid to the stockholders on and after the 1st day of February next, according to their respective interests.

The Government tax on the above-mentioned apportionment will be paid by the Company. By order of the Board. ISAAC N. SEYMOUR, Treasurer.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.
JERSEY CITY, Dec. 14, 1864.
The undersigned, Commissioners to receive subscriptions to the increased capital stock of this Bank, hereby gives notice that 500 shares of such increased capital at $100 per share remains unawarded to the present stockholders, and are open for subscription by the public until the 26th day of December inst., at 12 o'clock M., when it will be awarded to the highest bidders for the same, but no bids will be received at less than par, and the Commissioners reserve the right to reject any bids not deemed for the interest of the Bank.

Payments for the stock when awarded will be required to be made at the Bank, on or before the 1st day of January next, with interest from November 1st, 1864.
J. S. FOX,
S. ALOFSEN,
A. H. WALLIS,
Commissioners.

Office of the Trustees of Creditors and Stockholders of the Ohio and Mississippi R. R. Company, (Eastern Division,) No. 88 Wall-st., New-York, Dec. 19, 1864.

THE INTEREST DUE JAN. 1, 1865, ON the Preferred Certificates issued by this Trust will be paid on and after the 3d day of January, at this office, to those in whose name said Certificates stand registered, on the 24th inst.

The transfer books, both of Common and Preferred Certificates, will be closed at 2 P. M., on the 24th inst., and opened Jan. 5, 1865, at 10 A. M.
By order of the Trustees.
ALLAN CAMPBELL, Chairman.

Fourth National Bank of the City of New-York, Nos. 27 and 29 Pine-st., New-York, Dec. 8, 1864.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the regular annual meeting of the Shareholders of this Bank, for the election of nine Directors and of three Inspectors of Election, to serve for one year, will be held at the Banking-house of this Bank, at Nos. 27 and 29 Pine-st., in the City of New-York, on the 2d TUESDAY of January next, commencing at 12 o'clock at noon, and closing at 3 o'clock P. M. of that day.

The transfer books will be closed from Dec. 31 till after the said election.
D. W. VAUGHAN, Cashier.

Office of the Atlantic Mutual Ins. Co., No. 51 Wall-st., New-York, Dec. 14, 1864.

THE BOOKS OF THIS COMPANY WILL close on the 31st inst., preparatory to its annual statement. Persons holding policies on risks which shall have terminated during the year, prior to 1st January next, are requested to furnish an account of the premiums thereon, and a statement of all claims for return of premiums to prevent discrepancies in the accounts.
J. H. CHAPMAN, Acting Secretary.

Office of the Pacific Mutual Insurance Co., Trinity Building, No. 111 Broadway, New-York, Dec. 19, 1864.

THE BOOKS OF THIS COMPANY WILL close on the 31st inst., preparatory to its annual statement. Persons holding policies on risks which shall have terminated during the year, are requested to furnish an account of the premiums thereon, and a statement of all claims for return of premium, to prevent discrepancies in the accounts. THOS. HALE, Secretary.

Office of the Harmony Fire and Marine Insurance Co., No. 50 Wall-st., New-York, Dec. 19, 1864.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR DIRECTORS and Inspectors of Election of this Company, will be held at the office, No. 50 Wall-st., on MONDAY, the second day of January next.
Polls open from 10½ until 11 o'clock A. M.
DANIEL D. GASSNER, Secretary.

Office Sandusky, Mansfield and Newark Railroad Co., Sandusky, Dec. 20, 1864.

THE HOLDERS OF THE BONDS OF this Company are hereby notified that the interest warrants falling due on the first day of January, 1865, issued with bonds, will be paid at maturity at the office of E. T. H. Gibson, Esq., No. 54 William-st., New-York.
C. L. BOALT, President.

MILWAUKEE & ST. PAUL RAILWAY CO.—The interest on the First Mortgage Bonds of this company, due on the 1st of January next, will be paid at the office of the company, No. 25 William-st., on and after Jan. 3, 1863.
RUSSELL SAGE, President.

Department of Finance, Bureau of the Receiver of Taxes, No. 32 Chambers-street.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS.—NOTICE IS hereby given that an additional One Per Cent. will be added on the 15th inst., to all taxes unpaid on that day. On the 1st of January following, interest at the rate of Twelve Per Cent. will accrue, to be calculated from the 10th day of October, 1864, to the date of payment.
JOHN MURPHY, Receiver.

MINNESOTA CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY.—The interest due on the First of January next, on the Bonds of this Company, will be paid on and after the 3d January, 1865, at the office of the Company, No. 25 William-st., Room No. 9.
C. O. GILPIN, Secretary.

TO PETROLEUM COMPANIES AND OPERATORS IN OIL STOCKS.—I solicit orders for the sale of oil stocks and subscription agencies for new companies. ALVIN WILKINS, Stock Broker, Detroit, Michigan.

SALT LANDS—AT SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, TOgether with salt works, for sale. Inquire of AMOS G. HALL, No. 41 Park-row.

DIVIDENDS.

Office of M. K. Jesup & Co., No. 59 Exchange-place, cor. Broad-st., New-York, Dec. 22, 1864.

THE QUARTERLY DIVIDEND OF ONE and three-quarters (1¾) per cent., free from Government tax, due Jan. 1, 1865, on Joliet and Chicago Railroad stock, and on Alton and St. Louis Railroad stock, will be paid on and after the 3d day of January next, by the United States Trust Co., No. 48 Wall-st., New-York.
M. K. JESUP & CO., Transfer Agents.

BULL'S HEAD BANK.—TWENTY-THIRD DIVIDEND.—New-York, Dec. 23, 1864.—The Board of Directors of the Bull's Head Bank have this day declared their usual Quarterly Dividend of Three (3) per Cent., and an Extra Dividend of Three per Cent., both free of Government tax, out of the net profits of the past three months, payable on and after the 3d day of January next. The transfer books will remain closed from this date until the 3d proximo, inclusive.
G. W. WILLETT, Cashier.

Mechanics' Bank, New-York, Dec. 21, 1864.

DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have this day declared a Dividend of five per cent., free from Government tax, payable to the stockholders on and after the 3d of January next. The transfer book will be closed from this date until Jan. 3.
W. H. COX, Cashier.

Atlantic Bank of the City of New-York, New-York, Dec. 20, 1864.

DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have this day declared, out of the profits of the last six months, a Dividend of Five per Cent., payable to stockholders, free of Government tax, on and after Jan. 3, 1865. The book of transfer will be closed from Dec. 28 to Jan. 4. By order. R. W. R. FREEMAN, Cashier.

Importers' and Traders' Bank, New-York, Dec. 21, 1864.

A DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT. OUT of the earnings of the past six months, free from Government tax, will be paid to the Stockholders of this bank on and after the 3d day of January next, until which time the transfer books will be closed. By order of the board. JAMES BUELL, Cashier.

Grocers' Bank, New-York, Dec. 20, 1864.

A DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT. ON the capital stock of this Bank, free from Government tax, will be paid to the stockholders on and after January 3, next. By order of the Board.
SAMUEL B. WHITE, Cashier.

Tradesmen's Bank, New-York, Dec. 20, 1864.

A DIVIDEND OF SIX PER CENT., FREE of Government tax, has been declared, payable on and after the 3d day of January.
ANTHONY HALSEY, Cashier.

DIVIDENDS

DIVIDEND NOTICES.

The following Dividends (for November) have been declared payable Dec. 31, to Shareholders of record Dec. 20, 1864:

BRIGGS GOLD COMPANY.
Eighth Dividend..........................One Dollar per Share

CHASE GOLD COMPANY.
Third Dividend..........................One Dollar per Share

McKINLEY OIL COMPANY.
Fifth Dividend..........................Three Per Cent

CLIFTON PETROLEUM COMPANY.
Second Dividend..........................One Per Cent

FOUNTAIN PETROLEUM COMPANY.
First Dividend..........................One Per Cent

WALTER E. LAWTON, Treasurer,
No. 81 John-st., New-York.

Mechanics' and Traders' Bank, Jersey City, Dec. 12, 1864.

DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have this day declared a Dividend of 15 Per Cent. and the Government tax out of the profits of the current six months, payable to the stockholders on and after the 5th of January proximo. The business of this bank will be discontinued after the 31st of December inst., and be merged into the First National Bank of this city.
J. S. FOX, Cashier.

Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Co., Office No. 73 South 4th-st., Philadelphia, Nov. 30, 1864.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.—The transfer books of this Company will be closed on THURSDAY, Dec. 15, and reopened on TUESDAY, Jan. 10, 1865.

A Dividend of 15 per cent., on the common and preferred stock, clear of National and State taxes, has been declared payable in common stock, on 31st Dec. next, on all stock standing on the books of the Company at the close of business on the 15th proximo.

Stockholders whose names are registered on the New-York books, will be paid at the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, No. 56 Wall-st.
S. BRADFORD, Treasurer.

Office of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Co., Pittsburgh, Dec. 15, 1864.

DIVIDENDS.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have declared a Dividend of 2½ per cent, free of Government tax, on the capital stock for the quarter ending Dec. 31 inst., and 3½ per cent., less the Government tax, on the third mortgage bonds for the six months ending Dec. 31 inst., the latter in anticipation of that due April 1, 1865. Both payable on and after Jan. 17, 1865, at the company's office in this city, and by the transfer-agents, WINSLOW, LANIER & CO., No. 52 Wall-st., New-York, to the holders, as registered at the respective offices. The transfer books will close on the 31st inst., at 2 o'clock P. M., and will reopen on the 17th day of January thereafter. By order of the board.
W. H. BARNES, Secretary.

Broadway Bank, New-York, Dec. 21, 1864.

THIRTIETH DIVIDEND.—A SEMI-ANNUAL Dividend of Ten (10) per cent. on the Capital Stock of this Bank, has this day been declared from the profits of the current six months, payable on and after the 3d day of January, 1865.
By order of the Board,
J. L. EVERITT, Cashier.

CHATHAM BANK DIVIDEND.—A DIVIdend of Six (6) Per Cent., free of Government tax, out of the profits of the past six months, will be paid to the stockholders on and after TUESDAY, 3d of January next, the Transfer Books to remain closed from the 23d inst. to day of payment inclusive. By order of the Board.
O. B. SCHREINER, Cashier.
NEW-YORK, Dec. 21, 1864.

Merchants' Exchange Bank in the City of New-York,—December 22, 1864.

DIVIDEND—A Dividend of Four per cent on the Capital of this Bank has been declared, free from Government Tax, payable on and after the 3d of January next.

Transfer books will be closed from the 22d inst. to the 3d of January.
By order. E. J. OAKLEY, Cashier.

The Ninth National Bank of the City of New-York, No. 363 Broadway, New-York, Dec. 14, 1864.

A DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT., FREE of Government tax, will be paid to the stockholders of this Bank on the 3d day of January, 1865. The transfer books close on the 24th inst., to reopen Jan. 3, 1865.
By order of the Board, JOHN T. HILL, Cashier.

Metropolitan Bank, No. 108 Broadway, New-York, Dec 16, 1864.

DIVIDEND.—THE DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN BANK have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of Five (5) Per Cent., free of Government tax, payable after first Monday of January next.

The transfer books will remain closed from Dec. 17 until Jan. 4, 1865. GEORGE I. SENEY, Cashier.

Hanover Bank, New-York, Dec. 16, 1864.

DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of five per cent. on the capital stock, free of Government tax, payable to the stockholders on the 3d day of January next.

The Transfer Book will be closed from the 21st to the 31st instant. JNO. T. BANKER, Cashier.

Bank of New-York, Dec. 16, 1864.

161ST DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECtors have this day declared a dividend of five (5) per cent., free from Government tax, payable on and after the 3d of January next. The Transfer Books will be closed from this date until the 5th of January next.
W. B. MEEKER, Cashier.

People's Bank of the City of New-York, Dec. 23, 1864.

DIVIDEND.—A DIVIDEND OF FOUR (4) PER cent., free of Government tax, will be paid on the capital stock of this bank, on and after the 3d day of January next. The tranfer books will be closed from date to Jan. 3, inclusive. By order.
G. L. CROWELL, Cashier.

The Park Bank, New-York, Dec. 20, 1864.

DIVIDEND NOTICE.—THE BOARD OF DIrectors have this day declared a Semi-annual Dividend of Six Per Cent. on the capital stock, free of Government tax, payable to the stockholders on the 31st December inst. The transfer books will be closed from the 21st to 31st December, inclusive.
J. L. WORTH, Cashier.

Manufacturers' and Merchants' Bank, New-York, Dec. 13, 1864.

DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have this day declared a dividend of five per cent., payable to stockholders, free of Government tax, on and after the 3d day of January next.

Transfer Books will be closed from Dec. 27 to 3d January, inclusive. A. MASTERTON, Cashier.

IRVING BANK—TWENTY-THIRD DIVIDEND.—On and after the 30th day of December, by order of the Board of Directors, a Semi-annual Dividend of Four per Cent., free of Government tax, will be paid the stockholders of this bank. Transfer books are closed to that day. DANIEL V. H. BERTHOLF, Cashier.
IRVING BANK, NEW-YORK, Dec. 20, 1864.

Atlantic Bank, Brooklyn, Brooklyn, Dec. 23, 1864.

DIVIDEND.—A SEMI-ANNUAL DIVIDEND OF Six Per Cent. on the capital stock of this Bank has this day been declared out of the profits of the six months ending the 31st inst., payable, free of Government tax, on and after the 3d day of January next. By order of the Board.
WM. C. RUSHMORE, President.

The Market Bank, New-York, Dec. 20, 1864.

DIVIDEND.—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of five (5) per cent. on the capital stock, free of Government tax, payable to stockholders on and after the third (3d) day of January next.

The transfer books will be closed from date to Jan. 3.
A. GILBERT, Cashier.

Butchers' and Drovers' Bank, New-York, Dec. 21, 1864.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE declared a semi-annual Dividend of five per cent., and an Extra Dividend of five per cent., free of Government tax, payable on and after the 3d day of January next. The transfer books will remain closed until the day of payment. R. P. PERRIN, Cashier.

RUTLAND MARBLE COMPANY, NO. 25 PINE-ST.—The Board of Directors have this day declared a dividend of Five per cent., payable on and after Jan. 4, 1865, to stockholders of record on that day. The transfer books will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 24, and reopened on Thursday, Jan. 5.
THOMAS M. WHEELER, Treasurer

SAVINGS BANKS,

EAST RIVER SAVINGS BANK.
No. 3 CHAMBERS-ST.
New-York, Dec. 19, 1864.
DIVIDEND.—The usual semi-annual Dividend, at the rate of six per cent. per annum on all sums from $1 to $500, and five per cent. on sums over $500, will be payable on and after the 16th day of January, 1865.
Bank open DAILY from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on THURSDAY EVENING from 5 to 7 o'clock.
WM. H. SLOCUM, President.
CHARLES A. WHITNEY, Secretary.

UNION DIME SAVINGS BANK,
Nos. 427 and 429 Canal-st., corner of Varick. Dividend. The semi-annual dividend, free from Government tax, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, on all sums from $5 to $500, and five per cent. on sums over $500, will be payable on and after the 21st of January, 1865. Bank open daily from 10 A. M. to 3, and on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 5 to 7 o'clock.
EDER V. HAUGHWOUT, President.
GARDNER S. CHAPIN, Secretary.

MARINERS' SAVINGS BANK—No. 1 THIRD-AV.
Deposits will draw interest from the 1st January.
BANK OPEN DAILY from 10 to 2 P. M., and on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY EVENINGS, from 5 to 7 o'clock.
THOMAS B. STILLMAN, President.
ISAAC T. SMITH, Secretary.

FRANKLIN SAVINGS BANK—CORNER 8th-av. and 42d-st., open daily. Interest six per cent. All deposits made before the 21st of January will draw interest from the 1st of January.
SAMUEL NEWBY, President.
[illegible], Secretary.

CITIZENS' SAVINGS BANK,
BOWERY, CORNER OF CANAL-ST.
SIX PER CENT. INTEREST allowed on all sums of Five Hundred Dollars and under, and five per cent. on larger amounts. MONEY DEPOSITED NOW WILL DRAW INTEREST FROM JAN. 1.
Bank open daily from 10 to 3, and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, from 5 to 7.
Bank books in English, German and French.
GEO. FOLSOM, President.
SEYMOUR A. BUNCE, Secretary.

MARINERS' SAVINGS BANK.
NO. 1 THIRD-AVENUE.
New-York, Dec. 16, 1864.
DIVIDEND.—The Semi-annual Dividend, free from Government tax, at the rate of Six Per Cent. Per Annum on all sums from $5 to $500, and Five Per Cent. on sums over $500, will be payable on and after the 21st of January, 1865. Bank open daily from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M., and on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from 5 to 7 o'clock.
THOMAS B. STILLMAN, President.
ISAAC T. SMITH, Secretary.

IRVING SAVINGS INSTITUTION.
NO. 96 WARREN-ST.
Interest allowed at the rate of 6 per cent. on all sums entitled thereto. Open daily from 10 to 2 P. M., and on Monday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons from 4 to 7 P. M. N. B.—Money to loan on bond and mortgage.
WALTER W. CONCKLIN, President.
VANDERBILT L. BUXTON, Secretary.

SIX PER CENT.—FREE FROM GOVERNMENT TAX.

THIRD AVENUE SAVINGS BANK,
COR. 3D-AVENUE AND 26TH-ST.
New-York, Dec. 22, 1864.
DIVIDEND.—A Semi-Annual Dividend, at the rate of Six per cent. per annum, (free from Government Tax,) on all sums from $1 to $1,000, will be paid on and after the Third Monday in January, 1865.
Bank open daily from 10 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 8 o'clock.
SPENCER K. GREEN, President.
RICHARD KELLY, Secretary.

Mechanics' and Traders' Savings Institution, No. 283 Bowery.

SIX PER CENT. INTEREST ALLOWED on sums of $1,000 and under; 5 per cent. on larger sums. Deposits made on or before Jan. 3 will draw interest from Jan. 1. Open daily from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M., and on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M.
CHAS. PECK, President.
HENRY C. FISHER, Secretary.

ATLANTIC SAVINGS BANK,
CHATHAM SQUARE, NEW-YORK,
OPEN DAILY.
SIX PER CENT INTEREST ALLOWED.
Deposits made now, or on or before January 2, will draw interest from Jan. 1st.
M. D. VANPELT, President.
JOSEPH P. COOPER, Secretary.

PROPOSALS.

ARMY SUPPLIES.

Office of Assistant Commissary-General of Subsistence, No. 4 State-st., New-York, Dec. 22, 1864.

Sealed proposals (in triplicate) will be received by the undersigned until 4 o'clock P. M. on THURSDAY, the 29th instant, for furnishing for issue to the United States Army, DESICCATED POTATOES for six months, at the rate of one hundred thousand pounds per month, first delivery to be completed Jan. 20, 1865.

The desiccated potatoes must be manufactured exclusively from sound potatoes of the best varities, and without admixture of any other ingredients, to be in all particulars sound and free from sourness or unpleasant flavor, to be ground to the fineness of coarse meal, and packed in air-tight tin or zinc boxes, containing sixty pounds net, these to be packed in strong, well-made and strapped wooden boxes, two in each, with sunken and battened ends, like sample packages to be seen at this office.

Proposers will state where their manufactories are located, and will briefly describe their method of granulating and desiccation, stating also the average time required for the several processes of manufacture. The deliveries are to be made monthly, and free of expense to the United States, at the Subsistence Storehouse, No. 4 State-street, New-York, or at such other points in the City of New-York as may be designated by the proper authority.

Each proposer is required to furnish a sample of not less than three hundred and sixty pounds of his own manufacture, packed as above.

A printed copy of this advertisement must be attached to each proposal, and the proposals must be specific in complying precisely with all the terms. Each bid, to have consideration, must contain the written guaranty of two responsible names, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, hereby agree that should the above bid be accepted, we will give our bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars that the contract shall be fulfilled."

The ability of the sureties to respond in the sum of ten thousand dollars must be certified by the U. S. District-Attorney or other proper officer; such certificate to accompany the proposal.

Payment will be made in currency, or its equivalent, as soon as funds are received for the purpose.

Blanks for Proposals will be furnished at this office, which must be inclosed in an envelope addressed to the undersigned, and indorsed "Proposals for Subsistence Stores."
H. F. CLARKE,
Colonel, A. D. C. and C. S.

ARMY SUPPLIES.

Office of Assistant Commissary-General of Subsistence, No. 4 State-st., New-York, Dec. 22, 1864.

Sealed proposals (in duplicate) will be received by the undersigned until 12 o'clock, M., on Tuesday, the 27th instant, for supplying, for the use of the United States Army, SUBSISTENCE STORES, to be delivered in New-York or Brooklyn, as follows, viz.:

1,000,000 pounds of first-quality PILOT BREAD, to be made of good sound Extra Ohio or other equally good *side-branded* flour; crackers to be thoroughly baked and perfectly dried before being packed, and in size, thickness, openness, &c., to conform to standard heretofore established; to be packed in boxes of 50 pounds bread to each box; boxes to be made of fully-seasoned wood, of such kinds as will impart no taste or odor to the bread; bottom and top of single pieces, or if of two pieces, tongued and grooved together. Boxes to be strapped with light straps of suitable wood. The Flour and Bread will also be examined by the Inspector, who will reject all that in the quality of the flour, or in any other respect, is inferior to the standard samples. Bidders to state the location of their bakeries, when they can begin their deliveries, and how much bread they can deliver daily.

A printed copy of this advertisement must be attached to each proposal, and the proposal must be specific in complying precisely with all the terms. Each bid, to have consideration, must contain the written guarantee of two responsible names, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, hereby guarantee that should all or any part of the above bid be accepted, it shall be duly filled according to its true purport and conditions; also, that a written contract, with bonds to the amount of one-fourth of the value of the stores proposed to be furnished, shall be executed if required."

The seller's name, place of business, and date of purchase, as well as the name of contents, with net weight, and shipping marks, to be hereafter designated, must be plainly marked on every package. All boxes to be strapped with green hickory straps.

Payment will be made in currency or its equivalent, as soon as funds are received for that purpose.

Contractors are expected to hold their goods, without expense to the United States, until required for shipment.

Blanks for Proposals will be furnished at this office, which must be inclosed in an envelope addressed to the undersigned, and indorsed "Proposals for Subsistence Stores."
H. F. CLARKE,
Colonel, A. D. C. and C. S.

PROPOSALS FOR $200,000

"NEW-YORK COUNTY COURT-HOUSE STOCK."

Sealed proposals will be received at the Comptroller's office until THURSDAY, Jan. 5, 1865, at 2 o'clock P. M., when the same will be publicly opened, for the whole or any part of the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars of "The New-York County Court-house Stock," authorized by chapter 242 of the Laws of 1864, and by an ordinance of the Board of Supervisors, approved by the Mayor, May 3, 1864.

The said stock is to provide additional means for the construction and completion of the New County Courthouse, on Chambers-street. It will bear interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, on the first day of May and November in each year, and the principal will be redeemed as follows, viz:

One hundred thousand dollars on the first day of November, 1889; and

One hundred thousand dollars on the first day of November, 1890.

The proposals will state the amount of stock desired and the price per one hundred dollars thereof, and the persons whose proposals are accepted will thereupon be required to deposit with the County Treasurer the sums awarded to them respectively.

On presenting to the Comptroller the receipts of the County Treasurer for such deposits, the parties will be entitled to receive certificates for equal amounts of the par value of the sums awarded to them, bearing interest from the dates of payments.

Each proposition should be sealed and indorsed "Proposals for New-York County Court-house Stock," and inclosed in a second envelope, addressed to the Comptroller.

The right is reserved to reject any or all of the bids, if the interests of the county require it.
MATTHEW T. BRENNAN, Comptroller,
CITY OF NEW-YORK, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, Dec. 23, 1864.

Assistant Quartermaster's Office, Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 15, 1864.

PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED AT this office until 12 o'clock M., SATURDAY, Dec. 31, 1864, from dealers, for such of the following articles as they can furnish for the Quartermaster's Department, United States Army:

64 Bowling or Low Moor Tyre to bore 56 inches.
8 Bowling or Low Moor Tyre to bore 55¾ inches.
8 Bowling or Low Moor Tyre to bore 49½ inches.
82 Bowling or Low Moor Tyre to bore 57 inches.
4 Bowling or Low Moor Tyre to bore 47⅞ inches.
The above to be flanged, and 2½ to 3 inches thick.

Proposals will be considered for Tyres made by other manufacturers, if equally serviceable.

10 kegs each hot pressed Square Nuts, ⅜ and ⅝ inch.
36 Parallel Bench Vises.
500 lbs. Borax, 25 bbls. Coal Oil.
12,000 Hickory Pick Handles.
10,000 Hickory Spike Maul Handles.
50 Pigs Lead, 50 Pigs Babbitt.
25 Slabs Zinc, 25,000 feet Safety Fuse.
100 doz. Ames' No. 2 Shovels, or an article equally good.
20 reams Emery Cloth, each 0, ½, 1, 1½, 2;
20 reams Emery Paper, each 0, ½, 1, 1½, 2;
2 barrels best Copal Varnish;
5 barrels Mineral Paint (in oil.)

When samples are furnished they must have the name of the bidder upon them, and be numbered to correspond with the bids.

The articles bid for and time of delivery must be stated, and each bid must be guaranteed by two responsible sureties, guaranteeing over their own signatures that the bidder will enter into bond for the fulfillment of his contract, should one be awarded him.

Bids will be opened at the time above specified, and bidders are invited to be present.

The right is reserved to reject any bid deemed unreasonable.

By order of Col. WM. W. McKIM, Chief Quartermaster Cincinnati Depot.
A. J. PHELPS,
Captain and A. Q. M.

PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR $234,000.

CENTRAL PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND STOCK OF 1876.

Sealed proposals will be received at the Comptroller's office, until SATURDAY, the 21st day of January, 1865, at 2 o'clock P. M., when the same will be publicly opened, for the whole or any part of the sum of two hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars of the Central Park Improvement Fund Stock, authorized by chapter 85 of the laws of 1860, and by an ordinance of the Common Council, approved by the Mayor, April 25, 1860.

The said stock will bear interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable quarter-yearly, and the principal will be redeemed Nov. 1, 1876.

The proposals will state the amount of stock desired, and the price per one hundred dollars thereof, and the persons whose proposals are accepted will thereupon be required to deposit with the Chamberlain of the city the sums awarded to them respectively.

On presenting to the Comptroller the receipts of the Chamberlain for such deposits, the parties will be entitled to receive certificates for equal amounts of the par value of the stock, bearing interest from the dates of payment.

Each proposition should be sealed and indorsed "Proposals for Central Park Improvement Fund Stock," and inclosed in a second envelope, addressed to the Comptroller.

The right is reserved to reject any or all of the bids, if the interests of the Corporation require it.
MATTHEW T. BRENNAN, Comptroller.
CITY OF NEW-YORK, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, Dec. 23, 1864.

Quartermaster's Office United States Army, No. 17 State-st., New-York, Dec. 21, 1864.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED at this office until 12 M. of TUESDAY, Dec. 27, for the following articles, viz:

Best English refined Flat Iron, assorted, from 7x¼ to 2x1 inch, per ton of 2,240 lbs.
Round Iron, ¾, 1¾, 2 and 2¼ inch, per ton.
Square Iron, ¾ and ⅛ inch, per ton.
Boiler Iron, 5-16 inch, per ton.
Sheet Iron, No. 26, "best bloom," per ton.
Best Oak-tanned Bridle Leather, from 9 to 11 lbs, per side, per lb.
Best Oak-tanned Harness Leather, from 12 to 15 lbs per side, per lb.
Russet Leather, per lb.
Sole Leather, oak tanned, per lb.
Oil-tanned Leather, per lb.
Horse-shoe Nails, Nos. 6, 7 and 8, per lb.
Cast Steel, ⅜x⅜ to 2½x⅜, per lb.
Cast Steel, square, ¾ and 2¼, per lb.
Cast Steel, octagon, 1¼, per lb.
Cut Nails, 8d, 10d, 12d, 20d per keg.
Carriage Bolts, assorted, from 1x¼ to 6x⅜.
Round Iron, assorted, from ¼ to 1¼ inch per ton.
Square Iron, assorted, from ¼ to 1½ inch per ton.
Band Iron, assorted, from ⅞ to 4 inches per ton.
Hoop Iron, assorted.
Window Glass, American, 2d, 10x12, 12x14, 14x16, 14x18 per box of 50 feet.

Parties will please name in their proposals the length of time required to furnish the articles they offer, and will be expected to deliver at place of shipment in New-York whatever is awarded to them, free of charge to the United States. Payment will be made in such funds as are provided by Government. The right is reserved of rejecting any proposal not deemed advantageous to the United States. Offerings should be indorsed "Proposals for Quartermaster's Stores," and addressed
Brevet Brig.-Gen. STEWART VAN VLIET,
Quartermaster U. S. Army.

Assistant Quartermaster's Office, Forage Department, No. 66 Cedar-st., New-York City, Dec. 20, 1864.

PROPOSITIONS WILL BE RECEIVED daily for the
FREIGHTING OF FORAGE,
for the United States Quartermaster's Department, from New-York City, Philadelphia, Boston, Portland and other ports on the coast of Maine,
TO
Washington, Alexandria, Va.; Newbern, N. C.; Port Royal, S. C.; Savannah, Ga., and New-Orleans, La.
PROPOSITIONS
must state name, standing and capacity of vessel, quantity of hay and grain, respectively, they will require, and when ready for cargo, and addressed to
E. D. CHAPMAN,
Captain and Assistant Quartermaster.

LEGAL NOTICES.

SUPREME COURT.—IN THE MATTER OF the application of THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COMMONALTY OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, by the Croton Aqueduct Board of said city, relative to the acquiring of lands for a Reservoir and appurtenances thereto in the said city, between One Hundred and Seventy-second and One Hundred and Seventy-fifth streets, and the Tenth-avenue and the Harlem River, in the said city, for the purpose of supplying such parts of said city with Croton Water as are not now supplied with the same.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, by the Croton Acqueduct Board of said city, pursuant to chapter ninety-five of the laws of this State, passed April Seventh, Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-three, and chapter two hundred and sixty-seven of the laws of this State, passed April Twenty-first, Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-four, hereby give notice to the owners, lessees, parties or persons respectively entitled unto or interested in the lands, tenements, hereditaments, and premises hereinafter mentioned and described, that they will apply to the Supreme Court of the State of New-York, at a special term of said court, to be held at the City Hall, of the city of New-York, on MONDAY, the Twenty-third day of January, Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-five, at the opening of the court on that day, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, for the appointment of three Commissioners of Appraisal in the above-entitled matter, to estimate in favor of the severa lowners, lessees, parties and persons interested as aforesaid, a just and equitable compensation for taking all those lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises as lie between One hundred and Seventy-second and One hundred and Seventy-fifth streets and the Tenth-avenue and the Harlem River in said city, which said lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises the said Croton Aqueduct Board deem necessary for the building a new reservoir and appurtenances thereto, in the city of New-York, for the purpose of supplying such parts of the city of New-York with Croton water as are not now supplied with the same, which said lands and premises are laid out and described and are of the extent following, that is to say: commencing at the point where the line between the land of Eliza B. Jumel and of Richard F. Carman intersects the Croton Aqueduct land line, near the gate-house at High Bridge, in the Twelfth Ward of said city, and running thence north fifty degrees, twenty-eight minutes west on said Jumel's and Carman's line, six hundred and forty-nine two-tenths feet to the southeasterly corner of Tenth-avenue and One hundred and Seventy-fourth street, thence south thirty four degrees, west five hundred and sixteen eight-tenths feet on the easterly line of Tenth-avenue to the north easterly corner of One hundred and Seventy-second-street, thence at right angles to the last line south, fifty-six degrees east along the northerly line of One hundred and Seventy-second-street five hundred and eighty one-tenth feet to land line of Croton Aqueduct, thence on said last-mentioned land line north forty-seven degrees, sixteen minutes east three hundred and forty-six nine-tenths feet, thence also on said last-mentioned land line, north twenty-five degrees, twelve minutes east one hundred and four five-tenths feet, thence also on said last-mentioned land line, north forty-six degrees, thirty-three minutes east thirteen seven-tenths feet to the place of beginning, containing three hundred and five two hundred and six thirty-five one hundred square feet, or seven eight-one thousand acres.

Also, commencing at a point where the line between the land of Richard F. Carman and of Eliza B. Jumel intersects the westerly line of the Croton Aqueduct lands, near the gate-house, on the Manhattan end of High Bridge, thence on the said line, between the said Croton Aqueduct lands and lands of Richard F. Carman, west forty-six degrees thirty-three minutes east forty-six feet, thence on said line, between said Carman's land and lands of Croton Aqueduct, south seventy-eight degrees thirteen minutes, east three hundred and thirty-five feet, more or less, to low water mark; thence north eleven degrees forty seven minutes; east seventy-nine and five-tenths feet; thence north seventy-eight degrees thirteen minutes; west three hundred and ninety-two and six-tenths feet, to a point near foot-bridge; thence south thirty-nine degrees thirty-two minutes, west to dividing line between the lands of said Carman and Jumel, eighty-nine three-tenths feet, thence south fifty degrees twenty-eight minutes, east eighty-two five-tenths feet, to the point of beginning, containing thirty-four thousand seven hundred and fifty-four seventy-nine one-hundredth square feet, or seven hundred and ninety-eight-one-thousandths of an acre.
JOHN E. DEVELIN,
Counsel to Corporation.
DATED NEW-YORK, December 15, 1864.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK, ss.—Whereas, a libel of information hath been filed in the District Court of the United States of America, for the Southern District of New-York, on the seventeenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, by E. Delafield Smith, Esq., United States District-Attorney for the Southern District of New-York, on behalf of the United States, against the steamer *Vixen*, her tackle, &c., and cargo; and whereas the substance of the said libel of information is that said steamer and cargo was captured as lawful prize on or about the first day of December, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, on the Atlantic Ocean, off Wilmington, N. C., by the United States steamer *Rhode Island*, Commander Stephen D. Trenchard, United States Navy, commanding, and brought to the port of New-York, and praying that the said steamer, her tackle, &c., and cargo, may be condemned as lawful prize to the use of the United States. Now, therefore, in pursuance of the monition, under the seal of the said Court, to me directed and delivered, I do hereby give public notice to all persons claiming the said steamer, her tackle, &c., and cargo, or in any manner interested therein, that they be and appear before the said District Court to be held at the City of New-York, in and for the said Southern District of New-York, on the 27th day of December, inst., at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of that day, (provided the same shall be a day of jurisdiction, otherwise on the next day of jurisdiction thereafter,) then and there to interpose their claims, and to make their allegations in that behalf.—Dated this 17th day of December, 1864.
ROBERT MURRAY, U. S. Marshal, &c.
E. DELAFIELD SMITH, U. S. District Attorney, &c.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK, ss.—Whereas, a libel of information hath been filed in the District Court of the United States of America, for the Southern District of New-York, on the 17th day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, by E. Delafield Smith, Esq., United States District-Attorney for the Southern District of New-York, on behalf of the United States, against the steamer *Emma Henry*, her tackle, &c., and cargo; And whereas the substance of the said information is that said steamer and cargo was captured as lawful prize on the 8th day of December, 1864, on the Atlantic Ocean, in latitude 31° 13', north longitude 76° 43' west, by the U. S. steamer *Cherokee*, Act.-Vol. Lieut. Wm. E. Dennison, U. S. Navy, commanding, and brought to the port of New-York. And praying that the said steamer, her tackle, &c., and cargo may be condemned as lawful prize to the use of the United States. Now, therefore, in pursuance of the monition under the seal of the said Court to me directed and delivered, I do hereby give public notice to all persons claiming the said steamer her tackle, &c. and cargo, or in any manner interested therein, that they be and appear before the said District Court, to be held at the City of New-York, in and for the said Southern District of New-York, on the twenty-seventh day of December instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of that day, (provided the same shall be a day of jurisdiction, otherwise on the next day of jurisdiction thereafter,) then and there to interpose their claims, and to make their allegations in that behalf. Dated this 17th day of December, 1864.
ROBERT MURRAY, United States Marshal, &c.
E. DELAFIELD SMITH, United States District-Attorney, &c.

SHIPPING.

MAIL STEAMERS TO FRANCE DIRECT THE GENERAL TRANSATLANTIC COMPANY'S NEW LINE OF FIRST-CLASS SIDE-WHEEL STEAMSHIPS BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND HAVRE.

The first five splendid vessels intended to be put upon this favorite route for the Continent, are the following:

WASHINGTON.......... 3,204 tons.... 900-horse power
LAFAYETTE.......... 3,204 tons.... 900-horse power
EUROPE.......... (Afloat)...... 900-horse power
FRANCE.......... (Afloat)...... 900-horse power
NAPOLEON III.......... (Building)...1,100-horse power

Until the completion of the entire list, the service will be performed by the WASHINGTON, A. DUCHESNE; LAFAYETTE, A. BOCANDE; as follows:

FROM NEW-YORK TO HAVRE.
LAFAYETTE........WEDNESDAY............Jan. 4.
WASHINGTON.......WEDNESDAY............Feb. 1.
First Cabin, (including table wine)..........$135
Second Cabin, (including table wine)..........$70 or $80

Payable in gold, or its equivalent in United States currency.

Medical attendance free of charge.

For freight or passage, apply to GEO. MACKENZIE, Agent, No. 7 Broadway, New-York.
At Paris, 12 Boulevard des Capucines, (Grand Hotel.)
At Havre, WM. ISELIN & CO.

NATIONAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO. (Limited.) NEW-YORK TO LIVERPOOL. Calling at Queenstown to land passengers.

Ship.	Tons.	Commander.
QUEEN—building	3,612	....
ONTARIO—building	3,212	....
HELVETIA—building	3,209	....
ERIN	3,218	Grace.
LOUISIANA	2,166	Prowse.
VIRGINIA	2,876	Lewis.
PENNSYLVANIA	2,972	Brooking.

Leaving Pier No. 47, North River, as follows:
ERIN—Lewis..........Saturday, Dec. 31.
AND EVERY ALTERNATE SATURDAY THEREAFTER.

The Cabin accommodations on board these steamers are unsurpassed, and the rates lower than by any other line.

Cabin passage, $125 in currency; Steerage, $45 in currency.

The owners of these vessels will not be accountable for specie or valuables unless Bills of Lading (having their value expressed therein) are signed therefor.

For freight or cabin passage apply to WILLIAMS & GUION, No. 71 Wall-st.
For steerage passage apply to WILLIAMS & GUION, 29 Broadway, N. Y.

NEW-YORK MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S Line of Side-Wheel Steamers to NEW-ORLEANS DIRECT. Will sail as follows:

EVENING STAR......Bell..........Saturday, Jan. 7.
GUIDING STAR......Knapp.........Saturday, Jan. 14.
MORNING STAR......Nelson........Saturday, Jan. 21.
EVENING STAR......Bell..........Saturday, Feb. 4.
MORNING STAR......Nelson........Saturday, Feb. 11.
GUIDING STAR......Knapp.........Saturday, Feb. 18.
DAY STAR..........(Building.)

At 3 o'clock, P. M., From Pier 46 North River, 3d Pier above Canal-st., N. Y.

PASSAGE—Chief cabin staterooms, $75 to $100, according to location of stateroom. Second cabin, $50.

The *Morning Star* is 2,048 tons, the *Evening Star* 2,015, the *Guiding Star* 2,416, the *Day Star* 2,778, custom-house measurement. Their passenger accommodations are not excelled by those upon any other steamers.

No Freight received or Bills of Lading signed after 12 o'clock on day of sailing. For Freight or Passage apply to JAMES A. RAYNOR, No. 10 Barclay-st.

THE BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIPS. BETWEEN NEW-YORK AND LIVERPOOL, CALLING AT CORK HARBOR. AND BETWEEN BOSTON AND LIVERPOOL, CALLING AT HALIFAX AND CORK HARBOR.

ASIA leaves Boston Wednesday, Dec. 7.
CHINA leaves New-York Wednesday, Dec. 14.
CANADA leaves Boston Wednesday, Dec. 21.
CUBA leaves New-York Wednesday, Dec. 28.
AFRICA leaves Boston Wednesday, Jan. 4.
AUSTRALASIAN leaves New-York Wednesday, Jan. 11.

FROM NEW-YORK TO LIVERPOOL.
Chief Cabin Passage..........$132 50
Second Cabin Passage..........80 00
FROM BOSTON TO LIVERPOOL.
Chief Cabin Passage..........$112 50
Second Cabin Passage..........65 00

Payable in gold, or its equivalent in United States currency.

Berths not secured until paid for.

An experienced Surgeon on board.

The owners of these ships will not be accountable for Specie or Valuables unless bills of lading having the value expressed are signed therefor.

For freight or passage apply to E. CUNARD, No. 4 Bowling-green.

STEAM WEEKLY TO LIVERPOOL—Touching at QUEENSTOWN, (CORK HARBOR.) The well known steamers of the Liverpool, New-York and Philadelphia Steamship Company (Inman line) carrying the U. S. mails, are intended to sail as follows:

KANGAROO..........SATURDAY..........Dec. 31
CITY OF MANCHESTER..SATURDAY..........Jan. 7
CITY OF LONDON......SATURDAY..........Jan. 14

and every succeeding Saturday, at noon, from Pier No. 44 North River.

RATES OF PASSAGE, PAYABLE IN GOLD, OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN CURRENCY.

First Cabin..........$80 | Steerage..........$30
First Cabin to London....85 | Steerage to London....34
First Cabin to Paris.....95 | Steerage to Paris.....40
First Cabin to Hamburg...90 | Steerage to Hamburg...37

Passengers also forwarded to Havre, Bremen, Rotterdam, Antwerp, &c., at equally low rates.

Fares from Liverpool or Queenstown—First Cabin, $75, $85, $105. Steerage, $30. Those who wish to send for their friends can buy tickets here at these rates.

For further information apply at the Company's Offices. JOHN G. DALE, Agent, No. 15 Broadway, New York.

FOR HAVANA VIA NASSAU, N. P. The British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's new steamer "CORSICA," Capt. LE MESSURIER, will sail for the above ports, from the company's wharf, at Jersey City, on MONDAY Jan. 2, MONDAY, Jan. 30.

Passage money to Nassau..........$45
Passage money to Havana..........50
(Payable in Gold or its equivalent.)

No freight received on day before sailing.

For freight or passage, apply to E. CUNARD, No. 4 Bowling Green.

FOR NEW-ORLEANS DIRECT. The new and first-class U. S. Mail Steamship GEO. CROMWELL, E. E. VAIL, Commander, will leave Pier No. 9, North River, on SATURDAY, Dec. 31, at 3 P. M.

The cabins of this steamer have been enlarged and elegantly furnished.

For freight or passage, with unsurpassed accommodations, apply to H. B. CROMWELL & CO., No. 86 West-st.

The GEORGE WASHINGTON will follow.

FOR NEW-ORLEANS DIRECT. The first-class United States Mail steamship YAZOO, GEORGE W. COUCH, Commander, having been thoroughly overhauled, will leave Pier No. 13, N. R., on THURSDAY, Jan. 5, 1865, at 3 o'clock P. M., precisely, for New Orleans direct.

For freight or passage, apply to LUDLAM, HEINEKEN & CO., No. 115 Broadway.

UNITED STATES MAIL LINE FOR CALIFORNIA, VIA PANAMA. The following first-class side-wheel steamships will be dispatched at noon, precisely, from Pier No. 3, North River:

Jan. 4..........NORTH STAR..........SLOCUM.
(Connecting at Panama with GOLDEN AGE.)
Jan. 13..........COSTA RICA..........TINKLEPAUGH.
(Connecting at Panama with CONSTITUTION.)
Jan. 23..........OCEAN QUEEN..........SEABURY.
(Connecting at Panama with SACRAMENTO.)

For freight or passage, apply to D. B. ALLEN, No. 5 Bowling-green.

FOR NORFOLK, VA.—REGULAR LINE. The steamship SAXON, LAVENDER, Master, will leave Pier No. 21, North River, as above, on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28, 1864, at 3 o'clock P. M.

For freight or passage, apply to WHITNEY & HATHEWAY, No. 52 South-st.

OPPOSITION LINE TO CALIFORNIA, VIA NICARAGUA—SHORT ROUTE, LOW PRICES.—The Central American Transit Company will dispatch, on the 20th of every month, from Pier No. 29 North River, at noon, the fine steamship GOLDEN RULE, D. S. BABCOCK, Master, at greatly reduced rates of passage. For particulars, apply to D. N. CARRINGTON, Agent, No. 177 West-st., corner of Warren-st.

FOR HAVANA—THE NEW AND SPLENDID SIDE-WHEEL STEAMSHIP COLUMBIA, Capt. BARTON, Will leave Pier No. 4, North River, on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28, at 3 o'clock, P. M., precisely, for Havana direct. For freight or passage apply to SPOFFORD, TILESTON & CO., No. 29 Broadway.

The new and splendid steamship MORRO CASTLE, ADAMS, Master, will succeed the COLUMBIA, and leave on Jan. 4.

ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP CUBA FOR LIVERPOOL.—The CUBA, —— STONE, Commander, will sail from the stream on WEDNESDAY NEXT, 28th inst. A steamboat will leave the Company's Wharf, at Jersey City, at 12 o'clock, to convey passengers and baggage on board.

The AUSTRALASIAN will sail 11th January.
E. CUNARD, No. 4 Bowling-green.

FOR PORT ROYAL AND BEAUFORT, S. C.—REGULAR LINE. The steamship CERES, SHERWOOD, Master, will sail for Port Royal, S. C., on TUESDAY, Dec. 27, at 3 o'clock P. M., from Pier No. 6, East River. For freight or passage apply to WHITNEY & HATHEWAY, No. 52 South-st.

RAILROADS.

NEW RAILROAD LINE SOUTH: BROOKLYN TO PHILADELPHIA—THROUGH IN FIVE HOURS.

Fare, $2. Excursion Ticket, $3, (good for three days.)

On and after TUESDAY, Nov. 1, 1864, by the commodious steamer JESSE HOYT, foot of Montague-st., Brooklyn, every day (Sundays excepted,) at 11 o'clock A. M., thence to Port Monmouth and by the Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad to foot of Vine-st., Philadelphia. Returning leave Vine-st wharf, Philadelphia, every morning at 8 A. M. (Sundays excepted.)

☞ Travelers from the City of New-York are notified not to apply for passage by this line, the State of New-Jersey having granted to the Camden and Amboy monopoly the exclusive privilege of carrying passengers and freight between the Cities of New-York and Philadelphia.

HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.—ON AND after MONDAY, Dec. 5, trains leave 30th-st. station for Albany and Troy, and places North and West, at 7:30 and 11:30 A. M., 3:45, 6, and 10:30 P. M. Sleeping cars attached to the 6 and 10:30 P. M. trains from 30th-st. All trains leave Chambers-st. 30 minutes earlier than 30th-st. Sunday train, 6 P. M. from 30th-st. Through freight train daily. J. M. TOUCEY, Ass't Sup't.

DRY GOODS.

AT A GREAT SACRIFICE ON COST FOR THE HOLIDAYS! OUR ENTIRE STOCK OF CLOAKS, BASQUES, SACKS, &c. LORD & TAYLOR, Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY, (corner Grand-st.,) Also at stores Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST. Nos 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS. BELOW COST OF IMPORTATION! AT LORD & TAYLOR'S, Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY, corner Grand-st, MOIRE ANTIQUES, RICH, FANCY AND PLAIN DRESS SILKS, INCLUDING A CHOICE ASSORTMENT OF NOVELTIES FOR CARRIAGE, DINNER AND EVENING WEAR. ALSO, AT STORES Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST., And Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

ELEGANT NOVELTIES IN LACES, IMPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS, POINTS, CAPES, FLOUNCES, BARBES, COIFFURES, SETS, HANDKERCHIEFS, FANS, &c., &c., AT LORD & TAYLOR'S, Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY, corner of Grand-st., Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST., Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS. AT REDUCED PRICES! LACE CURTAINS, CORNICES, LOOPS, TASSELS, TABLE AND PIANO COVERS, BLANKETS, FLANNELS, AND HOUSE-FURNISHING GOODS IN EVERY VARIETY, AT LORD & TAYLOR'S Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY, (corner Grand-st.) Nos. 255 to 261 GRAND-ST., And Nos. 47 and 49 CATHARINE-ST.

NOVELTIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS. AT LORD & TAYLOR'S, Nos. 461 to 467 BROADWAY, corner Grand-st. LADIES' ELEGANT BREAKFAST ROBES, RICH VALENCIENNES AND MUSLIN WAISTS, CHILDREN'S CLOTH AND POPLIN SUITS, BOYS' OVER COATS, MISSES' CLOAKS, ETC., CHILDREN'S HATS AND CAPS, INFANTS' TOILET BASKETS, INFANTS' RICH EMBROIDERED CLOAKS, INFANTS' ROBES, SLIPS, SACQUES, ETC., ETC. COMPLETE OUTFITS IN UNDER-CLOTHING, READY MADE OR MADE TO ORDER, BELOW REGULAR PRICES.

GREAT REDUCTION IN DRY GOODS FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS. STRANG & ADRIANCE, NO. 355 BROADWAY, (Between Leonard and Franklin sts.,) Are now offering their large stock of DRESS GOODS, bought principally at auction, at a great sacrifice on the cost of importation—consisting in part of

SILKS, in great variety,
OTTOMAN VELOURS,
EMPRESS CLOTHS,
IRISH POPLINS, PLAID POPLINS,
MERINOES, VALENCIAS,
WOOL PLAIDS,
PRINTED DELAINES,
FRENCH AND AMERICAN PRINTS,

Also, the largest assortment of fine quality KID GLOVES, At half the cost of importation, having purchased at auction the entire stock of several importers.

Fine quality LADIES' UNDRESSED KID GLOVES at $1, worth $1 75.

MANCHETTE KID GLOVES at $1 25, worth $2 25.

MANCHETTE WHITE, BLACK and assorted colors.

EVENING WHITE AND BLACK, $1 50, worth $2 50.

WOOL GLOVES AND GAUNTLETS for Ladies, Gentlemen and Children, at half price.

GENTLEMEN'S KIDS in White and assorted colors, at $1 50, worth $2 50.

ALSO, HOSIERY, EMBROIDERIES, LACES, HANDKERCHIEFS AND SCARFS at low prices.

Also, will put up several thousand DRESS PATTERNS, With prices marked in plain figures, on separate counters, for the convenience of customers.

SHAWLS In every variety of quality and price.

VELVET, SILK AND CLOTH CLOAKS Of the newest and most fashionable styles, CLOAKS MADE TO ORDER.

GREAT REDUCTION IN CLOAKS. LAKE & McCREERY, No. 471 BROADWAY, Are now offering their large and desirable assortment of CLOAKS, consisting of ENGLISH WHITNEY, FROSTED, CHINCHILLAS, CASTOR, MOSCOW, and other BEAVER CLOTHS, AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES. Ladies desirous of purchasing CLOAKS FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS, will do well to call and examine our stock. LAKE & McCREERY, No. 471 BROADWAY.

710 BROADWAY, 710. GREAT EMPORIUM OF FANCY DRESSES FOR BALLS AND PARTIES. An entirely new stock imported from Paris, of the latest pattern, constantly on hand. City and country orders promptly attended to. WOLF & PHILIPPE. No. 710 Broadway, up stairs.

AMERICAN SPOOL COTTON. PORTSMOUTH SPOOL COTTON, the only six-cord cotton manufactured in America. Warranted equal in every respect to any foreign make. For sale by FRIEND PITTS, No. 769 Broadway, corner 9th-st., New-York.

ELEGANT NOVELTIES FOR NEW-YEARS' PRESENTS. Real India and French camel's hair shawls, cloth, silk and velvet cloaks, Russia sable, mink and ermine capes, collars, muffs, cuffs, &c. Paris patterns silk and satin dresses. Brussel's point lace shawl, sets, handker chiefs, &c. Forming the most splendid assortment of rich, rare and costly goods offered this season A. T. STEWART & CO., Broadway and 10th-st.

A. T. STEWART & CO. Have largely replenished all their POPULAR STOCKS with an extensive variety of novelties in DRESS GOODS from 40 cents per yard upward, offering extraordinary inducements to parties selecting NEW-YEARS' PRESENTS. Broadway and 10th-st.

BEADS! BEADS!! BEADS!!! AND FANCY GOODS. M. P. BROWN, Importer, No. 186 Pearl-st., New-York.

AT MME. E. G. EDWARDS, NO. 75 3d-av., near 12th-st., French embroideries to order; initials for handkerchiefs and table linen done in elegant style; silk embroideries and braiding to order; stamping done perfectly.

WET MUSLINS! WET MUSLINS! FROM the late fire in Broadway, at great bargains. Black Alpacas very cheap. Dry goods, suitable for holiday presents, at very low prices. FOSTER BROTHERS, No. 272 Bleecker-st., corner Commerce.

HOUSES & ROOMS WANTED.

FARM WANTED.—AN EXPERIENCED FARMER wishes to hire or buy a small farm, or work it for the owner. Apply to JAMES MULLER, Eagleswood, Perth Amboy, N. J., or MARCUS SPRING, No. 77 East 14th-st., New-York.

BOARDING AND LODGING.

BOARD.—TO LET AN ELIGIBLE APARTMENT in a very small unobtrusive family, with board, to an invalid, or lady expecting to require medical care, kindness and home attention. For location, terms, &c., apply to, or address Dr. THIERS, No. 1,217 Broadway. No children or boarders.

BOARDING—A PLEASANT FURNISHED ROOM, suitable for a single gentleman; house convenient to cars and stages; dinner at 6 o'clock. No. 34 West 29th-st.

BOARD WANTED—IN THE IMMEDIATE VIcinity of the Sixth National Bank, for a gentleman. Address J. D., No. 217 South 3d-st., Williamsburgh, with name and recommendations.

MUSICAL.

ESTABLISHED IN 1834. **JOHN B. DUNHAM,** MANUFACTURER OF GRAND, SQUARE AND UPRIGHT PIANO-FORTES. WAREROOMS AND MANUFACTORY, NOS. 75 TO 85 EAST 13TH-ST., NEW-YORK.

CHICKERING & SONS MANUFACTURERS OF GRAND, SQUARE, AND UPRIGHT PIANO-FORTES, No. 652 BROADWAY.—The superiority of these instruments has of late been amply demonstrated by the voluntary testimony of the foremost artists of the day, who claim for them excellencies of tone and workmanship hitherto unobtained by any other makers.

Mr. GOTTSCHALK'S constant use of the NEW SCALE CHICKERING GRAND PIANO-FORTES has severely tested their musical qualities, and resulted in establishing the justice of the very flattering estimation in which they are held.

Messrs. CHICKERING & SONS are Sole Agents for the celebrated Alexandre Organs for the United States.

ESTABLISHED IN 1829. **RAVEN & BACON,** PIANO MANUFACTURERS, No. 135 Grand-st., near Broadway, New-York.

The musical profession having of late become quite prominent in connection with newspaper advertisements of four or five piano manufacturers in this city, each firm claiming superiority for their instruments from the indorsement of the same distinguished artists, we fear the innocent public, unacquainted with the tricks of the trade, may find themselves mystified as to where to select the best piano for their holiday gifts.

We would state that, as our pianos have been favorably known in this market for nearly forty years, it has not been necessary for us to obtain the opinion of the profession in regard to their quality, the instruments speaking for themselves. We are continually introducing improvements in our pianos, and they are up to the age in every particular. Parties desiring pianos will do well to examine our stock and prices before making their selections.

CUMMINGS & JENNY'S, MANUFACTURERS OF GRAND AND SQUARE PIANO-FORTES, No. 726 Broadway, New-York.

In these instruments are to be found the embodiments of those great qualities, volume, richness, purity and sonority of tone, which have so often met with the highest commendations of the leading artists throughout the country, and yet, they are offered to the public at prices, from 25 to 30 per cent. lower than any other of equal quality.

Every instrument warranted for five years.

STEINWAY & SON GOLD MEDAL GRAND AND SQUARE PIANOS are now considered the best in Europe as well as this country, having received the first Prize Medal at the World's Exhibition in London, 1862.

The principal reason why the Steinway Pianos are superior to all others is, that the firm is composed of five practical piano forte makers, (father and four sons,) who invent all their own improvements, and under whose personal supervision every part of the instrument is manufactured. Warerooms Nos. 71 and 73 East 14th-st., between Union-square and Irving-place, New-York.

STODART PIANOS, Known and esteemed as one of the BEST PIANOS manufactured, and for years have been used by the MOST HIGHLY CULTIVATED MUSICAL PEOPLE, and who will have none other.

Reference is made in all cases to parties who have the instrument, and they number thousands in this city alone, as to their qualities as a PERFECT PIANO in every respect. A fine assortment, recently from our factory, at our warerooms, No. 524 Broadway, opposite St. Nicholas Hotel. STODART & MORRIS.

DECKER BROTHERS, PIANOFORTE MANUFACTURERS, No. 91 Bleecker-st., (marble building, one block West of Broadway,) invite attention to their new PATENT PLATE PIANOFORTES, of which the New-York *Tribune*, April 23, 1864, said: "One of the simplest and most truly valuable improvements yet made in the pianoforte is that invented and patented by Decker Brothers." WARRANTED FOR SEVEN YEARS.

MASON & HAMLIN RESPECTFULLY announce that they have now completed the occupation of their greatly enlarged factory, and effected other arrangements for the large increase of their manufacturing facilities. They therefore confidently expect to be able henceforward to supply orders for their CABINET ORGANS promptly, without that inconvenient delay to which purchasers have been subjected, from the fact that for more than a year past they have been continually several hundred instruments behind orders. An assortment of styles from $110 to $600 each may be found at their New-York warerooms, No. 7 Mercer-st.

PIANO FORTES—NOTICE.—JAS. STEEDMAN begs to inform dealers, professors and the public that he is manufacturing first-class piano-fortes, with all the recent improvements, at moderate prices. All pianos warranted for five years. No. 40 West 18th-st., between 5th and 6th avs. Pianos repaired, tuned or taken in exchange.

A BEAUTIFUL ROSEWOOD PIANO—With carved legs and double carved lyre; finished back and front with heavy mouldings; pearl keys, pearl nameboard and key-slip; best city makers; will be sold at a bargain. Second-hand pianos, $100, $75, $50. FREDERICK BLUME, No. 208 Bowery.

BOARDMAN, GRAY & CO.'S PIANOS.—An elegant present for the holidays. Call at the depot, No. 748 Broadway.

AUCTION SALES.

NO. 498 BROADWAY. TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 27, AT 7 O'CLOCK. Elegant Holiday Books in great variety. WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 28, at 7 o'clock, Private Library of Choice and Elegant Books. GEO. A. LEAVITT, Auctioneer. By J. E. COLLEY.

SCRANTON COAL AT AUCTION.

OFFICE OF THE DELAWARE, LACKAWANA AND WESTERN R. R. CO., NEW-YORK, Dec. 15, 1864.

This Company will hold their Twenty-third Regular Monthly Auction, on WEDNESDAY, the 28th day of December, 1864, at 12 o'clock, noon, at the office of the Company, No. 35 William-st., at which time they will offer, by JOHN H. DRAPER & CO., Auctioneers, TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND TONS OF FRESH MINED SCRANTON COAL, embracing all the usual sizes, and deliverable at their depot, Elizabeth, N. J., during the month of January next.

The sale will be positive. Each lot put up will be sold to the highest bidder; no bids, in any form whatever, being made for account of, or on behalf of the Company.

The terms and conditions will be the same as heretofore, and will be fully made known at time and place of sale. JOHN BRISBIN, President.

U. S. MARSHAL'S SALE. DANIEL H. BURDETT, Auctioneer. By virtue of orders of sale to me directed by the Hon. Thos. J. Boynton, Judge of the District Court of the United States for the Suthern District of Florida, I will sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, on TUESDAY, Dec. 27, at 12 o'clock noon, from store No. 9 South William-st., cargo of schooner BADGER, 34 bales UPLAND COTTON.

Catalogues and samples at the office of Benner & Brown, No. 113 Wall-st., three days before sale. THOS. W. CLAPP, U. S. Marshall, Southern District Florida.

COPARTNERSHIP NOTICES

THE COPARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE existing between the undersigned, under the name of McCREDY & ARMOUR, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Either partners will sign in liquidation. NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1864. DENNIS A. McCREDY, PAUL J. ARMOUR.

No. 53 EXCHANGE-PLACE, NEW-YORK, Nov. 15, 1864.
HAVING ASSOCIATED WITH US MR. CHARLES H. DABNEY, the business of our firm will, from this date, be continued under the name of DABNEY, MORGAN & CO. J. PIERPONT MORGAN & CO.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

THE COMMITTEE ON ROADS OF THE Board of Councilmen will hold a meeting in Room No. 5 City Hall, on every WEDNESDAY, at 1 o'clock P. M. Parties having business with the Committee are invited to attend. PATRICK RUSSELL, MICHAEL BROPHY, WM. JOYCE, Committee on Roads.

THE COMMITTEE ON CROTON AQUEDUCT of the Board of Councilmen will meet on SATURDAYS, at 1 o'clock P. M., in Room No. 5 City Hall. All parties interested in papers referred to the committee are invited to attend. Councilman HEALY, Councilman HEFFERNAN, Councilman FITZGERALD, Committee on Croton Aqueduct Department.

THE COMMITTEE ON CLEANING STREETS of the Board of Councilmen will meet on MONDAYS, at 1 o'clock P. M., in Room No. 5 City Hall. All parties interested in papers referred to the committee are invited to attend. Councilman HAGERTY, Councilman KOSTER, Councilman HAVILAND, Committee on Cleaning Streets.

THE COMMITTEE ON STREETS OF THE Board of Councilmen will meet on WEDNESDAYS, at 1 o'clock P. M., in Room No. 5 City Hall. All parties interested in papers referred to the committee are invited to attend. PATRICK H. KEENAN, PATRICK RUSSELL, MICHAEL BROPHY, Committee on Streets.

THE COMMITTEE ON FIRE DEPARTMENT of the Board of Councilmen will meet every MONDAY, at 2 o'clock P. M. All parties having business with the Committee are invited to attend. GEORGE McGRATH, JEREMIAH HEFFERNAN, CHARLES REILY, Committee on Fire Department.

MACHINERY.

REYNOLDS' TURBINE WATER-WHEELS. Competent men are employed to measure streams, make plans, and put in flumes, wheels and gearing. TALLCOT & UNDERHILL, No. 170 Broadway, N.Y.

AMUSEMENTS.

WALLACK'S. CHRISTMAS WEEK PROGRAMME. MONDAY. The very popular play by Tom Taylor and Charles Reade, MASKS AND FACES. TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, HOW SHE LOVES HIM, Mr. Boucicault's new Comedy, with entirely new scenery, dresses, furniture and appointments. ONE OF THE GREATEST SUCCESSES EVER ACHIEVED IN THIS THEATRE, GIVEN WITH A POWERFUL DISTRIBUTION OF CHARACTERS. FRIDAY—145th night of the great play by J. Lester Wallack, ROSEDALE. SATURDAY—HOW SHE LOVES HIM. MARRIED LIFE will shortly be repeated. THE WIFE'S SECRET is in rehearsal. Open at 7¼ o'clock. Overture 7¾.

SECOND MASONIC PROMENADE CONCERT, IN AID OF THE MASONIC RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF BROOKLYN, AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN, DEC. 27, 1864. Tickets can be obtained from members of the fraternity and all the principal music and drug stores.

LADIES' BAZAAR FOR THE BENEFIT OF SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS, will be held at the Everett Rooms, corner Broadway and 34th-st., from the 16th to the 30th of December, inclusive. Tickets of admission, 25 cents; Season tickets, 50 cents; Children half-price. The supply will consist of rich, fancy and useful articles, and a well selected assortment of Children's Toys. Store prices will be asked. The Refreshment room will form an attractive feature, being amply supplied with the delicacies of the season. In consequence of the hall being previously engaged, the Bazaar will be closed on Friday, but will reopen at the same place on SATURDAY, at 11 A. M., when the ladies earnestly solicit the patronage of their friends.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

CORPORATION NOTICE.—PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, to the owner or owners, occupant or occupants of all houses and lots, improved or unimproved lands, affected thereby, that the following assessments have been completed and are lodged in the office of the Board of Assessors for examination, by all persons interested, viz.:

1. Building sewer in Third-avenue, from Ninth to Tenth-street.
2. Building sewer in Third-avenue, from One Hundred and Eighth to One Hundred and Tenth-street.
3. Paving Thirty second-street, from Sixth to Seventh-avenue, with trap-block.
4. Paving Forty-first-street, from Madison to Fifth-avenue, with trap-block.
5. Paving Forty-third-street, from Fifth to Sixth-avenue, with trap-block.
6. Laying cross-walks in Sixth-avenue, from Forty-seventh to Fifty-seventh-street.
7. Flagging in Broadway, from Fiftieth to Fifty-second-street.
8. Building sewer in Forty-third-street, from Eleventh to Twelfth-avenue.
9. Regulating and grading Eighty-Second-street, from First to Second-avenue.
10. Paving Sixtieth-street, from Broadway across Ninth-avenue, with trap block.
11. Building a Sewer in Oliver-street, from Chatham-square to Madison street.
12. Setting curb and gutter, and flagging Fortieth-street, from Fifth to Sixth-avenue.
13. Setting back curb and gutter in Marketfield-street.
14. Sixteenth-street, from Avenue B to East River, setting curb and gutter.
15. Building a sewer in First-avenue, from Fifty-eighth to Sixtieth street, and in Fifty-ninth-street, from First to Second-avenue
16. Setting curb and gutter, and flagging Forty-eighth-street, from Lexington to Sixth-avenue.

The limits embraced by such assessment, include all the several houses and lots of ground, vacant lots, pieces and parcels of land, situated as follows:

1. All the lots on the easterly side of Third-avenue, from Ninth to Tenth-street.
2. All the lots on Third-avenue and upon the intersecting streets, to the extent of one-half the blocks each side from One hundred and Eighth to One hundred and Eleventh-street.
3. All the lots on both sides of Thirty-second street, to the extent of half the block on the avenues from Sixth to Seventh-avenue.
4. All the lots on both sides of Forty-first street, from Madison to Fifth-avenue.
5. All the lots on both sides of Forty-third street from Fifth to Sixth-avenue.
6. All the lots in the westerly half of the blocks lying on the east side of Sixth-avenue, from Fifty-second to Fifty-eighth-street.
7. All the lots on both sides of Broadway from Fiftieth to Fifty-second-street.
8. All the lots on both sides of Forty-third street from Eleventh-avenue to Hudson River.
9. All the lots on both sides of Eighty-second-street from First to Second-avenue.
10. All the lots on both sides of Sixtieth-street, from Broadway to the middle of the block between Ninth and Tenth avenues.
11. All the lots on both sides of Oliver-street, from Chatham-square to Madison-street.
12. All the lots on both sides of Fortieth-street, from Fifth to Sixth-avenue.
13. All the lots on both sides Marketfield-street, from Broad to Whitehall-street.
14. All the lots on both sides of Sixteenth-street, from Avenue B to East River.
15. All the lots in block numbers 174 and 175; also all the lots fronting First-avenue, in block numbers 85 and 86.

All persons whose interests are affected by the above-named assessments, and who are opposed to the same, or either of them, are requested to present their objections in writing to one of the undersigned, at their office, No. 32 Chambers-street, basement new court-house, within thirty days from the date of this notice; and a hearing will be given to all such, on the 24th day of January next, at 12 o'clock at noon.

DANIEL E. DELAVAN, MORGAN L. HARRIS, DANIEL D. CONOVER, Board of Assessors.

OFFICE BOARD OF ASSESSORS, New Court-house, Dec 24, 1864.

CORPORATION NOTICE.—PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to the owner or owners, occupant or occupants, of all houses and lots, improved or unimproved lands affected thereby, that the following assessments have been completed and are lodged in the office of the Board of Assessors for examination by all persons interested, viz.:

Paving Twenty-second-street, from Fifth to Sixth-avenue, with trap-block.

Paving Fortieth-street, from Ninth to Tenth-avenue, with trap-block.

Paving Forty-seventh-street, from Third-avenue to east side of First-avenue, with trap-block.

Paving William-street, from Fulton to John-street, with trap block.

Paving Forty-eighth-street, from Second to Third-avenue, with trap-block.

The limits embraced by such assessment include all the several houses and lots of ground, vacant lots, pieces and parcels of land, situated on both sides of Twenty-second-street, to the extent of half the block from Fifth to Sixth avenues.

Also, all the lots on both sides of Fortieth-street, to the extent of half the block from Ninth to Tenth avenues.

Also, all the lots on both sides of Forty-seventh-street, to the extent of half the block from Third-avenue to Avenue A.

Also, all the lots on both sides of William-street to the extent of half the block from Fulton to John streets.

Also, all the lots on both sides of Forty-eighth-street, to the extent of one-half the block from Second and Third avenues.

[This notice is a readvertisement of all the assessment lists herein referred to.]

All persons whose interests are affected by the above-named assessments, and who are opposed to the same, or either of them, are requested to present their objections in writing to one of the undersigned, at their office, number thirty-two Chambers-street, basement new Court House, within thirty days from the date of this notice.

DANIEL E. DELAVAN, MORGAN L. HARRIS, DANIEL D. CONOVER, Board of Assessors.

OFFICE BOARD OF ASSESSORS, NEW-COURT HOUSE, Dec. 22, 1864.

CITY OF NEW-YORK, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, Dec. 24, 1864.
IN CONSEQUENCE OF CHRISTMAS DAY falling on Sunday, the Finance Department of the City of New-York will be closed on MONDAY, Dec. 26, 1864. MATTHEW T. BRENNAN, Comptroller.

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF INTERNAL REVENUE, 32D DISTRICT, STATE OF NEW-YORK, 1ST, 2D AND 4TH WARDS CITY OF NEW-YORK, No. 130 BROADWAY.
SPECIAL INCOME TAX.—NOTICE IS HEREBY given, that the list of taxes assessed in accordance with the provisions of the joint resolution of Congress, approved July 4, 1864, imposing a special tax of five per centum upon the gains, profits or income for the year ending Dec. 31, 1863, has been returned to me by the Assessor of the District, and that said taxes are now due and payable, and payment thereof is hereby DEMANDED.

A personal notice by mailing, demanding payment within ten days from its service, will be mailed to the address of each person on the list who shall omit to pay such tax for more than ten days from the date hereof, for which a fee of twenty cents will be added. And all persons who shall neglect to pay the sum so demanded within the time specified in such special notice will be liable to pay *ten per centum* additional, and a fee of twenty cents each for the service of the notice. Office open from 10 o'clock A. M. to 3 o'clock P. M.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 12, 1864. SHERIDAN SHOOK, Collector.

THE COMMITTEE ON DONATIONS AND Charities of the Board of Councilmen, will meet every SATURDAY, at 12 o'clock M., in Room No. 5 City Hall. All parties having business before the Committee are requested to attend. SAMUEL WEBSTER, WM. S. OPDYKE, JOHN BRICE, Committee on Donations and Charities.

THE COMMITTEE ON MARKETS OF the Board of Councilmen will meet every MONDAY, at 2 o'clock P. M., in Room No. 5 City Hall. All parties interested in papers referred to the committee are invited to attend. Councilman HAGERTY, Councilman SCHAEFER, Councilman COOK, Committee on Markets.

THE COMMITTEE ON SALARIES AND Offices of the Board of Councilmen, will meet every MONDAY, at 2 o'clock, P. M. All parties having business before the Committee are requested to attend. CHARLES RILEY, MICHAEL C. GROSS, JOHN BRICE, Committee on Salaries and Offices.

AMUSEMENTS

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

P. T. BARNUM AND SANTA CLAUS.—Fifty-four years ago the American Museum was first opened, but never before did it provide one tenth of the wonderful, beautiful, moral, amusing and instructive entertainments, which, during these Christmas Holidays, I cheerfully spread before families, children and strangers for their gratification.

The public's obedient servant P. T. BARNUM.

In celebration of this universal HOLIDAY FESTIVAL OF MIRTH, the management has summoned all THE RESOURCES OF ART to achieve a SEASON OF LUXURIOUS ENTERTAINMENT worthy the TASTE AND REFINEMENT OF THE AGE, AFTER MONTHS OF PREPARATION and ILLIMITABLE OUTLAY, a new and gorgeous SPECTACULAR FAIRY ROMANCE, entitled the RING OF FATE; OR FIRE, AIR, EARTH AND WATER, in THREE PARTS and FOUR ELEMENTS, with MAGNIFICENT SCENERY, NEW AND COSTLY WARDROBE, SPLENDID APPOINTMENTS, and NOVEL MECHANICAL EFFECTS, will be performed EVERY AFTERNOON, at 3, and EVENING at 7½, AND ON CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY, Dec. 26, almost every hour. Commencing at 11 o'clock A. M. Mrs J. J. Pryor, France, Jamison, Misses Kook, Cleaver. Messrs Levick, Hadaway, Jamison, Mestayer, Delmon, Grace, Bridgman, Porter, Cunningham, &c., &c., appear.

TO ADD TO THE MULTIFARIOUS ATTRACTIONS, WOODROFFE'S BOHEMIAN GLASS-BLOWERS have been engaged at an enormous expense. They will exhibit at all hours, WITHOUT EXTRA CHARGE, TWO GLASS STEAM-ENGINES, in full operation. O-KE-NA-WA-KAS TRIBE OF INDIANS, in their customs, war dances, &c. Miss JENNIE STONE, the Scottish Queen, 18 years old, and only 24 inches high. W. B. HARRISON..........in..........COMIC SONGS. Three Fat Girls, three Giants, two Dwarfs, Albino Boy, Grand Aquaria, Living Otters, Kangaroos, French Moving Figures, Wax Figures, and a million other curiosities.

Admission, 30 cents; children under 10, 15 cents.

"THE MESSIAH." THE NEW-YORK HARMONIC SOCIETY will give their thirteenth annual performance of Handel's grand oratorio, "THE MESSIAH," at the Church of the Puritans, Broadway, cor. 15th-st., on MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 26, 1864. The solos will be sustained by Mrs. S. MOZART, soprano; Miss C. V. HUTCHINGS, alto; Mr. GEORGE S. WEEKS, tenor; Mr. J. R. THOMAS, bass; pianist, Mr. E. J. CONNOLLY. A spacious platform has been provided for the chorus and orchestra. The choral force of the Society has been largely augmented during the past year. The orchestra has been selected by Mr. EBEN with special reference to oratorio music, and is composed of the best artists in the city. Conductor, Mr. F. L. RITTER. Leader, THEO. THOMAS. Trumpet Solo, Mr. DIETZ. Single tickets, $1; family tickets, admitting three persons, $2 25. To be had at the principal music-stores, and at the piano warerooms of T. S. Berry, Esq., Nos. 478 and 593 Broadway; and Messrs. Illsley & Co., corner Broome and Crosby sts. No family tickets will be sold at the door on the evening of the performance. Doors open at 6¾; commence at 7¾ o'clock.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS. HANDSOMELY-BOUND BIBLES AND PRAYER-BOOKS, CHURCH SERVICES, &c., &c. Every size and style of binding. ALSO ENGLISH MANUFACTURED LEATHER GOODS, AS WRITING DESKS, POCKET BOOKS, PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS, &c. EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, 626 BROADWAY, New-York

☞ Direct Importations from our London House large stock constantly on hand.

A GREAT VOLCANO OF HOLIDAY PHUN in the Comic paper called the PHUNNIEST SORT OF PHUN. Every man's wife's relations and the rest of mankind should get this No. 6 of the PHUNNIEST OF ALL PHUN. Now ready. Home Fun, Political Fun, Social Fun, Constitutional Fun, and National Fun, not excepting the Great Elephantine Fun.

ANNIVERSARIES.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORPHAN'S HOME AND ASYLUM OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, will be held at the Institution, 49th-st., corner of Lexington-av., on the Innocents' Day, WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28, at 2 o'clock P. M. The Annual Report will be read, and Trustees, Managers, etc., elected for the ensuing year. The Children's Christmas Tree will be exhibited immediately after. A table of refreshments, etc., will be ready at 12 o'clock.

HORSES AND CARRIAGES.

SLEIGH FOR SALE.—A HANDSOME PHAETON-body sleigh, suitable for two or four persons. Can be seen by applying to L. MOORE, JR., northeast corner of 9th-av. and 19th-st.

RAILROADS.

ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY. NEW BROAD GAUGE ROUTE. Passenger trains leave New-York, via the Erie Railway, from foot of Chambers-st., running through to Cleveland, Ohio, without change of cars, connecting with railroads for all principal cities in the West.

This road is being extended, and will soon be in complete running order to Mansfield, Galion, Urbana, Dayton, Cincinnati and St. Louis, without break of gauge. H. F. SWEETZER, General Superintendent. T. H. GOODMAN, General Ticket Agent, Meadville, Pa.

NEW-YORK AND HARLEM RAILROAD Trains for Albany Troy, and Saratoga Springs, also connecting with the North and West, leave 26th-st. depot at 10 A. M. and 4 P. M.

ERIE RAILWAY.—TRAINS LEAVE FROM foot of Chambers-st., via Pavonia Ferry:

7:00 A. M.—Day Express, for Canandaigua, Rochester, Buffalo, Salamanca and West. Connects at Buffalo with Lake Shore and Grand Trunk Railways, and at Salamanca, with Atlantic and Great Western Railway.

8:30 A. M.—Milk and Way Train, daily, for Otisville.

10:00 A. M.—Express Mail, for Buffalo, connecting with Lake Shore Railway.

4:00 P. M.—Way Train, for Port Jervis and Newburgh.

5:00 P. M.—Night Express for Canandaigua, Rochester, Buffalo, Salamanca and West.

6:00 P. M.—Lightning Express, daily, for Canandaigua, Rochester, Buffalo, Salamanca, Dunkirk, and West, connects at Buffalo with Lake Shore and Grand Trunk Railways, and at Salamanca, with Atlantic and Great Western Railway.

8:00 P. M.—Emigrant Train, daily, for Buffalo, Salamanca, Dunkirk and West.

CHARLES MINOT, General Superintendent.

LONG ISLAND RAILROAD—WINTER ARRANGEMENT.—Leave New-York, James-slip and 34th-st., East River, at 9 A. M. Mail Train for Greenport, Sag Harbor, &c.; and on Saturdays, at 3 P. M., Express Train for Greenport, stopping at stations east of Hicksville. For Farmingdale, Deer Park, Islip, Lakeland, Waverley and Yaphank at 9 A. M. and 3 P. M. For Syosset at 10.30 A. M. and 4 P. M. (Stages connect for Cold Spring, Oyster Bay and Huntington.) For Winfield, Jamaica, Hempstead, &c., at 9, 10:30 A. M. 3, 4 and 5 P. M.

Sunday train leaves 34th-st., East River, at 9:15 A. M., for Yaphank, stopping at all stations, (except Hempstead and Syosset.) Excursion tickets sold for this train. A. REASONER, Superindent.

N. Y. AND FLUSHING R. R. CO.—Trains leave Flushing 5:40, 7, 8, 9, 11 A. M., and 1, 3, 5, 6, 7:15 P. M. Trains leave Hunter's Point 6:19, 7:30, 8:30, 9.30, 11:30 A. M., and 2:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 and 8 P. M. Extra trains leave Flushing at 11 P. M. and Hunter's Point at 12 o'clock TUESDAY and FRIDAY EVENINGS. SUNDAY trains leave Hunter's Point at 10 A. M., 2, 5:30 and P. M.

NORTHERN R. R. OF NEW-JERSEY.—Trains leave Jersey City for Piermont at 9:15 A. M., 12:15 P. M., 4:22 P. M., and 6:05 P. M. The 9:15 A. M. and 4:22 P. M., run to Monsey. THOS. W. DEMAREST, Sup't. Nov. 1, 1864.

STEAMBOATS.

THE GREAT INSIDE ROUTE FOR BOSTON. STONINGTON STEAMBOAT LINE, VIA GROTON AND PROVIDENCE. THE OLDEST, QUICKEST, SAFEST AND MOST DIRECT, AVOIDING "POINT JUDITH." The magnificent steamer COMMONWEALTH, ON TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS. The elegant steamer PLYMOUTH ROCK, ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS, AT 4 O'CLOCK, P. M.

These boats start from Pier No. 18 North River, (foot of Cortlandt-st.,) and are acknowledged by all experienced travelers to be among the largest, strongest, most comfortable and best that have ever run in American waters. At all seasons and in all weather, these boats invariably make the passage on time. Sumptuous suppers and luxuriously furnished state-rooms are marked features of these "floating palaces."

Berths and state-rooms may be secured at Harden's Express Office, No. 74 Broadway, and at No. 115 West-st., New-York, and at No. 76 Washington-st., Boston. M. R. SIMONS, Agent.

FOR NEW-HAVEN, HARTFORD AND SPRINGFIELD.—Steamers leave Peck-slip at 3:15 P. M. Trains north and east from New-Haven 11 P. M.

FURNITURE.

BEDROOM ENAMELED FURNITURE OF warranted manufacture. Also, solid chestnut and walnut chamber suites, plain and ornamented, at H. F. FARRINGTON'S, No. 368 Canal-st., opposite Wooster. Established 1843.

ENAMELED CHAMBER FURNITURE.—The best assortment of enameled furniture, in all colors and styles; walnut and chestnut, plain and ornamental, in suites, wholesale and retail; also, mattresses and palliasses. WARREN WARD, No. 277 Canal-st.

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—ITALIAN OPERA. Director..........MAX MARETZEK. LAST WEEK OF THE OPERA SEASON. TO-MORROW EVENING, DEC. 26, at 8 (TWENTY-THIRD SUBSCRIPTION NIGHT.) Third night of Auber's new version of FRA DIAVOLO, FRA DIAVOLO, which was received with the greatest enthusiasm on its first representation. FRA DIAVOLO, with new and splendid scenery, by H. W. Calvo; new and brilliant costumes by Sig. Biuschi and Mme. Machl; new properties by Mme. Abiatti, and a very complete cast, including MISS KELLOGG, MLLE. MORENSI, SIG. G. LOTTI, BELLINI, LORINI, DUBRUEL, WEINLICH, ERNESTINE, AURIOL. Conductor..........Mr. CARL BERGMANN. TUESDAY, Dec. 27—BENEFIT OF MME. CAROZZI. NORMA, NORMA, NORMA. WEDNESDAY, Dec. 28—BENEFIT OF MISS KELLOGG. FRA DIAVOLO.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC. Director..........MAX MARETZEK. THURSDAY, Dec. 29. BENEFIT OF THE FRENCH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY. Auber's new version of the opera of FRA DIAVOLO, FRA DIAVOLO, with a very complete cast, including MISS KELLOGG, MLLE. MORENSI, SIGNORI G. LOTTI, BELLINI, LORINI. Dubreuil..........Wienlich. Ernestine..........Auriol. Seats can now be secured at Messrs. Beer & Schirmer, No. 701 Broadway; Messrs. Root & Anthony's, corner of Nassau and Pine sts.

THEATRE FRANCAIS. NIBLO'S CONCERT SALOON. MONDAY, Dec. 26, (Christmas,) at 8 o'clock, FAMILY PERFORMANCE, AT 75 CENTS, TO ALL PARTS OF THE HALL. LA POUDRE AUX YEUX, Comedy in two acts. LES DEUX TIMIDES. Vaudeville in one act. Theatre office No. 678 Broadway, ground floor.

CRAYON ART GALLERY, NO. 756 BROADWAY, containing a choice collection of Oil-Paintings by Artists of the Dusseldorf and other schools. Open from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M. Admission free.

INSTRUCTION.

COLUMBIA GRAMMAR SCHOOL. Nos. 327 and 329 4th-av., REV. GEORGE W. BACON, A.M., LL.B., Principal. The rooms have been much enlarged and refitted, and a gymnasium has been added. The modern languages, drawing, &c., are taught without extra charge. There are three departments—Classical, Commercial and Preparatory.

BARLOW'S COMMERCIAL AND ART ACADEMY—No. 923 Broadway.—Instruction given in penmanship, book-keeping, drawing, painting and arithmetic. Application to be made before 10 A. M. and after 3 P. M. Ornamental penmanship executed to order.

MILITARY ACADEMY, TARRYTOWN, N. Y.—Pupils prepared for college, business, West Point and the Naval School. For circulars, apply to the Superintendent, Gen. M. L. LOCKWOOD.

THE SEDGWICK INSTITUTE, GT. BARRINGTON, MASS.—For twenty year select young boys. Those never from home before preferred. Send for circulars. JAMES SEDGWICK, M. A., Principal.

MOUNT WASHINGTON INSTITUTE—(Classical, Commercial and French,) No. 126 West 4th-st., corner of Macdougal-st. and Washington-square. GEO. W. CLARKE, A. M., Rector.

IRVING INSTITUTE, TARRYTOWN, N. Y.—A Boarding School for Boys. The fifty-fourth semi-annual session will commence on Tuesday, Nov. 1. For circulars, apply to the Principal, D. S. ROWE, M. A.

GOLDEN HILL SEMINARY—FOR YOUNG Ladies, Bridgeport, Conn. For circulars, address Miss EMILY NELSON.

A SPLENDID GUITAR, PRICE $350, FOR sale by C. BRUNO, agent for the sale of E. F. Martin's celebrated Guitars, No. 203 Broadway, near Fulton-st., New-York.

SIX PRIVATE PUPILS.—PRIVATE PUPILS will receive especial care, with instruction for college or business, in the family of Rev. J. TUFTS, Monson, Mass.

MRS. SYLVANUS REED'S FRENCH AND English Boarding and Day School for young ladies and children, at No. 11 West 38th-st.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

CAVALRY HORSES WANTED.

CAVALRY BUREAU, OFFICE OF ASST. QUARTERMASTER, No. 18 State-st., New-York, July 27, 1864.

I will purchase in OPEN MARKET all the cavalry horses that may be presented and pass inspection at the Government stables, corner of 10th-av. and 35th-st., in this city, until further notice.

Payment will be made in checks, payable in certificates of indebtedness, when seven (7) or more horses are received. Price, one hundred and sixty five ($165) each. GEO. T. BROWNING, Capt. and Asst. Quartermaster.

SHELDON & LEFFERTS, NO. 40 PARK-ROW, (TIMES BUILDING) NEW-YORK MILITARY AND NAVAL BANKERS and Collectors; Bureau of Army and Navy Information. Officers' pay rolls, soldiers' pay, pensioners' pay. State and United States bounties collected. Clearances for officers obtained, &c.

HEADQUARTERS PROVOST-MARSHAL, FIFTH DISTRICT, 428 BROOME-ST., NEW-YORK, Dec. 24, 1864.
ALL PERSONS LIABLE TO DRAFT in this district, and others interested in filling its quota on the late call of the President for 300,000 men, are requested to use all means necessary to stimulate recruiting to the utmost extetn. Every facility will be extended to patriotic citizens who desire to furnish substitutes in advance of the draft, or otherwise aid the cause. Now is the time to finish the rebellion by promptly responding to the call of the President. HENRY P. WEST, Captain and Provost-Marshal. DAVID MILLER, Commissioner. JOSEPH HILTON, Surgeon.

DANCING.

A. DODWORTH'S DANCING ACADEMY. NO. 212 FIFTH-AV., CORNER 26TH-ST., N. Y. NO. 137 MONTAGUE-ST., BROOKLYN. Classes for gentlemen on TUESDAY and FRIDAY EVENINGS, in Brooklyn—on WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS in New-York, at 8 o'clock. Call for a circular.

C. H. RIVERS' DANCING ACADEMY. NO 33 SCHERMERHORN-ST., BROOKLYN. Classes for beginners are now forming. Send for a circular. Just published, a pamphlet containing a complete description of the fashionable quadrilles and 30 figures of the German Cotillon. Remit 25 cents for a copy.

BALLS.

LIGHT GUARD BALL. ACADEMY OF MUSIC. Jan. 23, 1864. TICKETS, THREE DOLLARS. For sale at the Hotels and Music stores.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

BARD BROTHERS' GOLD PENS. The best place to buy GOLD PENS FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS, IS AT NO. 22 MAIDEN-LANE, where you will find a good assortment of Bard Brothers' celebrated Pens, gold cases, silver cases, &c., &c. Call or send for circular or price list.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS. A magnificent stock of PIANO AND TABLE COVERS Closing out at low prices. B. L. SOLOMON & SONS, No. 369 Broadway.

MUSICAL BOXES.

Late arrivals have made my stock the most complete I ever had, comprising all the newest styles—Voix Celestes, Mandolines, Expressives, Organocleides, &c., &c. Toy Musical Boxes. All of the above are very desirable for HOLIDAY PRESENTS. They are fine ornaments for the parlor, and also very agreeable companions for the invalid. I have boxes playing from one to twenty-four tunes, and costing from $3 50 to $750 00. M. J. PAILLARD, Importer, No. 21 Maiden-lane, (up stairs,) New-York.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

ARTIFICIAL HUMAN EYES MADE TO ORDER and inserted by Drs. F. BAUCH and P. GOUGELMAN, (formerly employed by Boissonneau, Paris), No. 599 Broadway, New-York.

TO LET.

TO LEASE FOR A TERM OF YEARS.—A small farm with cottage-house and barn-house, on the East River, ten miles from the city. Rent only $500 and repairs, a year. Apply to E. H. LUDLOW & CO., No. 3 Pine-st.

BROOKLYN.—HOUSE TO LET.—THE THREE-story brick house, with sub-cellar and basement, No. 44 Ryerson-st.; gas and water introduced. Possession immediately. Apply to E. MACOMBER, No. 203½ Fulton-av.

TO LET—LOFTS AND OFFICES: SEVEN well lighted lofts in the brown-stone front building, Nos. 58 and 60 Fulton-st., near Cliff-st. E. T. & S. RYDER, No. 60 Fulton-st.

SAFE FOR SALE—HERRING'S LARGEST size, powder proof, nearly new, at No. 27 Murray-st., up stairs.

FIVE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE PERUVIAN OFF CAPE RACE,

Great Anxiety About the American Military Situation.

POLITICAL NEWS UNIMPORTANT.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Saturday, Dec. 24.

The steamship *Peruvian*, from Liverpool on the 15th, via Londonderry on the 16th, arrived off Cape Race at 3 o'clock this afternoon. She was boarded by the news-boat of the Associated Press, and a summary of her news obtained, which is five days later than that per the *Africa* at Boston.

The steamship *Nova Scotian*, from Portland, arrived at Liverpool on the 14th inst.

The steamship *Etna*, from New-York, arrived at Liverpool on the 15th inst.

The news by the *Peruvian* is of no special importance.

The British Emancipation Society had presented a congratulatory address to Mr. ADAMS, the American Minister, upon Mr. LINCOLN'S re-election.

The American advices, in view of SHERMAN'S progress in Georgia and HOOD'S operations in Tennessee, were regarded with the greatest interest.

The London *Globe* thinks that at no period of the war were greater interests at stake.

The London *Times* urges the opening of negotiations in regard to the American war, saying it must come to this at last, and the sooner it does come it will be the better for America and the world at large.

The sales of cotton in the Liverpool market, for the three days, were 18,000 bales; the market closing unchanged.

Breadstuffs were steady.

In Provisions there was a downward tendency.

Produce was dull.

Consols 89 3-16@89¼, for money.

THE AFRICA'S MAILS.

The Obsequies of Mr. Dayton—Goldwin Smith on the Army of the Potomac—Mr. Lincoln Congratulated.

The mails of the *Africa* reached this city last evening, from Boston. A summary of her news, via Halifax, has already been given.

MR. DAYTON'S DEATH AND FUNERAL.

Paris Correspondence of the London Times.

The death of Mr. DAYTON, United States Minister in Paris, has caused the most sincere regret among all who had the honor of his acquaintance, and at first feeling is still more embittered by the suddenness of the calamity which has overtaken his family. It appears that he left home about 9 o'clock in the evening of Thursday, to pay a visit to an American family residing at the Hotel du Louvre. He had been only a few minutes there when he felt a dizziness in the head, accompanied by a violent pain. His friend gave him some vinegar to bathe his temples, and a bottle of salts, which seemed to revive him. He lay down on the sofa for some time, and appeared to slumber. After some time his friend, not hearing him breathe, took him by the hand and found it quite cold. A doctor was sent for, but when, after the lapse of an hour or so, he came, he found it was too late; he had been dead some time. In the difficult position which Mr. DAYTON occupied in Paris no one could have conducted himself with more tact. He was courteous to all; of the most kind and affectionate disposition; and though sincere and earnest in his political opinions, was ever moderate and tolerant in expressing them. He was present at the celebrated banquet at the Hotel du Louvre four years ago, soon after his appointment to the post he so worthily filled; and those who heard him were struck by the contrast between what he said on that occasion and the violent harangues of Mr. CASSIUS CLAY and others. He was universally respected both in his public and private character, even by those who differed most from him. The obsequies were duly performed on the 6th at the American Chapel in the Rue de Berry, where the French foreign minister, Lord COWLEY, and the whole diplomatic body, were in attendance. The Emperor and Prince JEROME were each respectively represented by Baron DE LAJUS and Gen. FRANCONNIERE. There was a full concourse of Federal citizens, nor were Confederate residents of Paris altogether absent from the ceremony. M. ASPINWALL, of New York, MM. PENNINGTON and Consul BIGELOW were prominent among the mourners. The French press was represented by PROVOST PARADOL, and EUGENE PELLETAN was among the many deputies present on the occasion. The Federal flag covered the coffin, which will be forthwith transferred to Havre for embarkation for New-York.

From the Paris Debats.

We are able to speak of the diplomatic services of Mr. DAYTON. for the Congress recently caused the diplomatic correspondence of the United States in 1863 to be published, and the letters of Mr. DAYTON occupy a conspicuous place there. In a delicate position, the representative of a country torn by civil war, and often impeded by skilful adversaries, we find Mr. DAYTON acting with a prudence and measure that cannot be too highly praised. It must be admitted, too, that he found in M. DROUYN DE L'HUYS a minister of foreign affairs who had not forgotten the old traditions of friendship between France and the United States, and that the greatest difficulties are easily settled when there is on both sides perfect candor and a sincere desire to mutually avoid everything that can envenom excellent and old-established relations. But we shall be contradicted by no one when we affirm that the upright conduct and frankness of Mr. DAYTON contributed to a great extent to the cordiality which has prevailed between the two countries. To have faithfully fulfilled our duty is the sole eulogy which cannot be out of place at the grave. And this duty was that of defending liberty and humanity in the Senate, and abroad the unity of the country, torn by civil war. Mr. DAYTON always rose to the level of this noble task, and thus it is he will leave long-lived regrets, not only among the friends who knew his excellent and amiable qualities, but among all those who have been able to appreciate the orator, the diplomatist, and the patriot."

From Le Constitutionnel.

Mr. DAYTON, prematurely removed from the esteem of all who knew him, carries away universal regret. As we have already said, the honorable diplomatist was one of the inheritors of the wise and noble traditions bequeathed to their country and to history by the founders and the chief statesmen of the American Republic. He belonged to the school of WASHINGTON and FRANKLIN. A Minister in France while his country was passing through the most terrible crisis, and amid delicate circumstances, Mr. DAYTON avoided, by the courtesy of his manners, the prudence of his language and the moderation of his mind, many complications and embarrassments. The United States lose in Mr. DAYTON an eminent citizen, and to-morrow we shall accompany with respect the coffin of the wise politician and the honest man.

GOLDWIN SMITH AND OUR ARMIES.

From the London News.

SIR—Finding that all was quiet before Richmond, and that a civilian would be in no danger and not much in the way, I ventured to run down to the Army of the James.

The army appears to be in good condition and spirits. The supplies, I believe, are abundant; the hospital accommodations are evidently ample and good. I do not speak from my own observation, which, of course, is very limited and precarious, but from inquiry, in saying that probably no army in history ever was so well cared for as this. And if such is the case it is surely a very strong proof that the war is not being waged with mercenary and worthless lives.

I see the same care for the dead as for the living. The graves in the lines are decent; and many bodies, even of private soldiers, are embalmed and sent home to their friends.

The soldiers are now lodged in log huts built by themselves; and there was a sort of rivalry in the contrivance of some parts of these huts which looked like the work of cheerful as well as skillful hands.

The extent of the fortified lines is immense; and the perfect finish of the works seems to betoken willing labor, or at least ready obedience to command.

Everywhere you see skill in the use of the axe and the spade, dexterity and inventiveness, the signs of a native American army.

The fortifications and the batting might seem to indicate that the campaign was at an end. But the chessboard is now very contracted, and the remaining moves short. Richmond is visible from a signal station in the lines.

Of course, I cannot pretend to speak of the military qualities of the army. It must suffer from the continual retirement of veterans whose term has expired, and their replacement by raw levies, who are unwisely formed into regiments, instead of being incorporated with the old. The oligarchs of the Confederacy, as you know, keep their veterans in the field by a very simple expedient. Having induced men to enlist for a year, they voted them in for three, and then till the end of the war—a violation of public faith to which it would be difficult to find a parallel. As a natural consequence, however, they suffer from desertion in spite of the most vigilant efforts to prevent it. Their most trustworthy troops, if I am not misinformed, are a good deal employed in guarding the rest.

The armies of the Potomac and James do not live on the country. They are supplied from their water base. Hence, perhaps, it is that the district occupied by them, though you see many signs of conflict, you see no ravages. But in truth the country, so far as I saw it in two days' ride, or from the top of a signal-station commanding a wide view, bids defiance to the ravager. Though close to the capital of Virginia, it is, with the exception of a patch here and there, a wilderness. Part of it is a relapsed wilderness, for I saw the traces of former cultivation covered by trees of about twenty years' growth. The soil is evidently good, and the land will be fruitful when it is tilled by free hands and opened to emigration. Perhaps these armies may be conquering from Slavery a home for the surplus population of England.

The fact that the scene of this war is a vast and almost pathless forest, (the good roads about the lines being the work of the armies,) evidently makes ordinary military criticisms inapplicable. It is difficult to imagine how a line of battle can advance, how it can even be formed, or how artillery can be brought to bear in a battle. A charge of cavalry is out of the question; and this makes the cavalry ineffective, and the battles indecisive. Reconnoitering must also be extremely difficult.

The two lines of pickets were lying close to each other in front of their respective intrenchments, without any wanton firing. Men who thus observe the courtesies and humanities of war, may surely, when the war is over, live in good fellowship with each other.

There seemed to be in this republican army all due military subordination and enough of etiquette. At the same time, there is a certain republican equality of fare. The abode of Gen. GRANT at City Point is a hut of one room, containing a camp bed, a chest marked with the initials of the owner, a table and two or three chairs.

All Americans are hospitable to strangers, and the officers of the Army of the James were most hospitable to me. Perhaps their hospitality may have prejudiced me in their favor; but they appeared to me, in manners and cultivation, the equals, at least, of any soldiers whom I had ever seen. I rode for some hours in company with one of them who had entered the army as a private, and I think I never met a more perfect gentleman in my life.

I saw, with the greatest interest, the negro troops encamped close to the scene of one of their gallant exploits—the storming of the intrenchment on Newmarket Height. There can be no doubt, I think, that these men are now the acknowledged and respected brethren in arms of the whites. This, to give the Beast as well as the Devil his due, is the work of Gen. BUTLER. That man's indomitable energy and iron will (qualities written on his face more plainly than on any other face I ever beheld, unless it be the portraits of CROMWELL) have crushed all the obstacles that stood in the way of this great moral and social revolution. *Ferro iis libertas provenict*—the bayonet shall be their liberator—is the motto of the medal he has caused to be struck for the negro soldiers, and he has made this motto a practical truth. I will not attempt to anticipate the calm judgment of history in an hour of passion by discussing the controverted parts of his career. To me he seems to be in all points, good and evil, the model of a revolutionary chief. He was the first thoroughly to grasp the idea of the revolution being fulfilled by the virtual destruction of slavery; he is the first, as you see by his New-York speech, to announce in broad terms a policy of amnesty and oblivion. Like DANTON, he has "walked straight on his wild way," fearless of danger and somewhat reckless of opinion. I do not worship revolutionary characters. I hate the element from which they spring, as I love the calm progress of regular improvement. But a revolution has come, and I suspect that in its melancholy annals BUTLER will occupy a broader, and perhaps a less odious page than is commonly supposed. I am, &c.,

GOLDWIN SMITH.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22, 1864.

THE WORKINGMEN AND MR. LINCOLN.

A CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS.

A meeting of the workmen of South London was held on the evening of the 8th, at the Lambeth Baths—Rev. NEWMAN HALL in the Chair—to rejoice over the election of Mr. LINCOLN. The following address was adopted by acclamation:

To his Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America:

SIR,—We, the workingmen of South London, in public meeting assembled, present our most respectful but hearty congratulations on your re-election to the Presidential chair. We rejoice in the manner in which that collection was conducted, as well as its results, proving, as it has done, that the possession of full political power by the masses of the people does not tend to lawlessness, even when exercised under extremely trying circumstances. We regard the action of the decisive majority which has again placed you in power, as another proof that the great nation over which you preside is pledged to connect the restoration of the Union with freedom for the negro, and with his being ultimately placed before the law on a perfect equality with the white man. We lament the great sufferings caused by this war, as we abhor the treachery by which it was commenced, and we earnestly pray that peace may soon be established, not by such unholy compromise as would cause a speedy renewal of the war, but a peace which, being righteous, will also be permanent. We deprecate the unjust and unkind remarks of a portion of our press and people in reference to yourself and the great cause you represent; but these must be no more regarded as a fair representation of the opinion of Great Britain, than the statements of some papers and public men in America respecting this country are to be taken as a fair representation of the opinions of America. In conclusion we beg to assure you of our earnest prayers that Almighty God may long preserve your life, and give you all needful help in the important position you have been called to reoccupy at this important crisis; and hoping that America will soon be reunited and free, and that your nation and our own may ever be found in perfect agreement for the good of the world and the glory of God, we bid you farewell.

TERRIBLE BUTCHERY IN JAPAN.

From Galignani's Messenger.

We have received, via Holland, a letter from Japan three days later than the news already published. It has been already stated that the Prince of Nagato having refused to pay the war indemnity stipulated in the treaty of peace signed by him, a judgment of the criminal tribunal of Yeddo had decided that his two palaces should be razed to the ground and his servants put to death. We now learn that this singular and sanguinary sentence was approved of by the Mikado and by the Taicoun—the spiritual and temporal sovereigns of Japan—and that the number of servants killed in the execution of it was 420 men and 215 women and children. The Prince, on learning these facts, was deeply concerned, and sent to the capital his first Minister, on board the English corvette *Barossa*, which was placed at his disposal by Vice-Admiral KUPER. The Minister, on arriving at Yeddo, waited on the representatives of France, England, Holland, America and Russia, and besought them to intercede with the Taicoun in favor of the Prince, his master, who had decided on executing all the provisions of the treaty, and immediately paying the sums due. Such was the situation of affairs at the last date.

FROM NEW-ORLEANS.

Arrival of the Steamship George Cromwell—The Gunboat Narcissus Blown Up by a Torpedo in Mobile Bay.

The steamship *George Cromwell*, from New-Orleans Dec. 17, arrived here last evening. Purser HEMPSTEAD will accept our thanks for the prompt delivery of our files.

FROM MOBILE.

DESTRUCTION OF THE GUNBOAT NARCISSUS.

Correspondence of the New-Orleans Era.

MOBILE BAY, Thursday, Dec. 8, 1864.

It is with sadness that I send you the intelligence of the blowing up by a torpedo of the United States gunboat *Narcissus*, WILLIAM G. JONES commanding.

On the night of Dec. 7 he went in on picket duty to the obstructions opposite the city of Mobile. At 7 o'clock P. M. she came to anchor within three hundred yards of the obstructions, in plain view of the rebel rams, picket-boats, etc. The night was clear, and with a beautiful moon. At 10:30 P. M. came up a terrific squall from the northward. The Captain being apprehensive of his vessel grounding, as she was in only eight feet of water, and as the northers take the water out of the bay, the steamer got underway and steamed a mile further out, and came to anchor in nine and a half feet of water. The vessel was to an anchor ten minutes, the wind blowing strong from the northward, and a considerable swell, when all of a sudden a terrific explosion, which lifted the vessel all of five feet, and she came down solid and broke all her connection pipes at the moment. We believe the boiler exploded also. The captain, a brave, energetic and experienced sailor, soon ascertained that his ship was blown up by a torpedo. In less than one minute he had all his men organized into bailing and pumping parties. The vessel was all enveloped by steam from the disconnection of the pipes, and the water flew out of the boiler. All the firemen were soon ordered down in the fireroom to haul out the fires, to prevent further disasters. Signal rockets were sent up, and with commendable zeal and astonishing quick time the United States steamer *Octorora*, Lieut.-Commanding Low, (senior officer commanding the upper fleet off Mobile,) came down to our assistance, and the wounded men sent on board. We had no physician, but the Captain even had the presence of mind to provide for them. He ordered linseed oil to be rubbed over those that were scalded. His Executive, Mr. MARPLE, immediately attended to this himself. The *Octorora* drew so much water that she could not approach us, so she sent the *Cowslip* to our assistance. The vessel sank, or rather filled in fifteen minutes after the explosion. The Captain knew they might as well attempt to pump the *Atlantic* out as his vessel, but to keep their spirits up and the men in discipline, he kept them at the pumps and bailing for three hours until the *Cowslip* came alongside. Everything movable was removed to the *Cowslip*—guns, ammunition, powder, provisions, etc., all in good condition. Everything was got up from the hold before the water reached them. The magazine was first attended to. The engineer's department was employed stopping holes. By the disconnection and breaking of the pipes, the outboard delivery was open, so she filled rapidly. The explosion occured exactly at 11:30 P. M., and right amidships. The Captain would not leave his vessel till ordered by the senior officer. After he found it was impossible to save her, he sent all his men on board the *Cowslip* and remained there with four of his brave fellows, viz.: A. BRIEN, quartermaster; THOMAS BUTLER, boatswain's mate; GEORGE MOORE, coxswain; MICHAEL SMITH, ordinary seaman, and his steward. It is a wonder the rebels did not attack them or open fire on her at daylight from their batteries, which were in easy range of her. The Captain placed turpentine in different places to burn her, but as he was of the opinion she could be raised he did not set her on fire.

The rebels will have a jubilee on their success, but it will sooner help to take their city. Mobile must and shall be ours this Winter.

It is a great miracle that so few got injured and none killed. Only three were scalded; two severely—SAMUEL KEELAN, quarter gunner; and GEORGE CASEY, seaman. The firemen all happened to be on deck, or there would have been a sad loss of life.

The concussion was so great that it sent those who were asleep from the lower berth to the upper ones. The executive officer could not get out of his room by the door, so he stove the window and got out in that way.

From New-Orleans, via Cairo.

CAIRO, Saturday, Dec. 24.

The steamer *Niagara*, with New-Orleans dates of the 17th inst., has arrived here.

The steamer *Evening Star*, from New-York, had arrived at New-Orleans.

The steamer *George Cromwell* left for New-York on the 17th inst.

The schooner *Julia*, of Nassau, with an assorted cargo, was captured off Brazos River, on the 5th of December, by a United States steamer.

The gunboat *Narcissus* was blown up in Mobile Bay, on the 9th of December, by a rebel torpedo. No lives were lost, but several persons were scalded. All her material was saved. The boat will probably be raised.

In the New-Orleans market cotton was in good request, at $1 18@$1 20 for low middling. Sugar and molasses were firmer.

NEWS FROM REBEL SOURCES.

Our Cavalry Moving on Gordonsville—The Wires Cut—The Mobile and Northern Railway Cut by a Union Raiding Party from Pensacola.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Dec. 24.

The Richmond *Whig*, of Dec. 22, contains the proceedings of the North Carolina House of Commons, by which it appears that resolutions declaring that the States, in their sovereign capacity, have the right to decide the question of peace or war for themselves, were tabled by two majority.

The *Whig* says that several days since a raiding party came up from Pensacola and cut the Mobile and Great Northern Railroad at Pollards, 72 miles east of Mobile, and then retired.

From Gordonsville it was reported, yesterday, that two divisions of the enemy's cavalry had crossed the Blue Ridge at Chester Gap, arrived at Madison Court-house, and were moving on Gordonsville. We also learn that the telegraph wires were cut on Tuesday night, seven miles from Gordonsville; it is supposed by a Yankee spy. No apprehension is felt for the safety of Gordonsville, even if the above report is not greatly exaggerated, as there has been ample time to concentrate a force to meet the raiders.

The Raid by Burbridge and Stoneman.

FORTRESS MONROE, Thursday, Dec. 22.

The rebel papers contain the following dispatch:

LYNCHBURGH, Va., Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Passengers by the Western train to-night report a raid on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad at Bustal, Tennessee. The enemy are supposed to be a portion of BURBRIDGE'S command. From Bean Station they advanced rapidly and entered the town at 5 o'clock in the morning. They destroyed a considerable amount of Government stores. An engine and train on the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, and an eastern bound train on the Virginia and Tennessee road, between Bristol and Abingdon, were destroyed.

No positive intelligence of the enemy's number had been received, but they are supposed to have been between five and six thousand. A portion of the force is said yet to occupy the town. A body of the enemy, returning toward Bean Station, encountered our forces at Zollicoffer, a station on the East Tennessee Railroad, nine miles from Bristol, where a fight was said to be progressing at last accounts.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Dispatches to the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Dec. 24.

CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON.

The several Government Departments will be closed on Monday in order to enable the employes to enjoy the Christmas holiday.

The main building of the Kalarma Small-pox Hospital, was this evening destroyed by fire, which originated in the Chaplain's room. The patients were all safely removed.

From San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Friday, Dec. 23.

Business at a stand-still.

Owing to the blockade of the roads by mud, freight communications across the Sierra Nevada are prevented.

The Overland mail has arrived with St. Louis dates of the 26th.

The steamer *Golden Age* sailed to-day with a small number of passengers and $1,053,000 in treasure, of which only $383,000 is for New-York; the remainder goes to England and Mexico.

The sailing of the next mail steamer is postponed to Jan. 4, on account of the holidays.

Order of Gen. Dana.

CAIRO, Saturday, Dec. 24.

Gen. DANA has ordered all army ammunition and military pyrotechnics held by private citizens by military permission, to be shipped north of Cairo previous to the 1st of January. Persons found south of Cairo with such property, or materials used for their manufacture, after that date, will be arrested and imprisoned.

From St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Saturday, Dec. 24.

The formal opening of the Union Pacific Railroad, from Kansas City to Lawrence, Kansas, took place on Monday and Wednesday. A grand jollification was had at each end of the road. Daily trains are now running between the points named.

Death of Jas. M. Wood.

BOSTON, Saturday, Dec. 24.

Hon. JAS. M. WOOD, formerly member of Congress from Maine, died this morning at the Revere House, from an attack of lung fever. He was forty-nine years old.

Marine Disasters.

BOSTON, Saturday, Dec. 24.

The schooner *James Barbour*, from Ellsworth for New-York, was wrecked on an island near Georgetown, on the coast, while trying to make a harbor. Vessel and cargo are a total loss. Crew saved and badly frost bitten.

SQUANKUM, Saturday, Dec. 24.

The schooner *Fowler*, Capt. ISAAC ALMER, of Baltimore, from New-York for Baltimore, with merchandise, came ashore at Barnegat, on Friday night. She is full of water. All her cargo is damaged.

Weather at Montreal.

MONTREAL, Saturday, Dec. 24.

It is snowing slightly this morning. Thermometer 20 degrees below zero.

CITY NOTES.—Mr. JOHN W. FARMER has opened a depot at No. 47 Ludlow-street, to sell coal and potatoes at cost price to mechanics and laborers only, and intends also to sell them beef on the same terms. ....A Christmas dinner will be given to the soldiers at the rooms of the New-England Soldiers' Relief Association, No. 194 Broadway, on Monday, at 1 P. M. All friends of the institution are invited to be present....The proposed testimonial to Admiral FARRAGUT deserves additional merit from the fact that he has been constantly engaged in active service since he was placed on duty at New-Orleans, and has never performed blockade duty which would have enabled him, as it has other commanders, to share in receipts from prizes captured....The recruiting operations of the County Volunteer Committee will not be suspended to-morrow. Mr. BLUNT has from the first persistently refused to recognize holidays in the enlistment business. Men are mustered into the service on all days except the Sabbath....We regret to announce that WM. CURTIS NOYES, Esq., a distinguished member of the bar, is suffering from a severe and dangerous paralytic attack....DAVID BARRY was arrested yesterday by Officer PIKE, charged with having stolen two chain cables worth $400. They belonged to ISAAC HALL, No. 124 Broad-street. It is further alleged that BARRY has stolen eight iron ship-knees worth $100 each, and a steam boiler weighing three tons, valued at $250. All the stolen property has been recovered. The accused was committed for examination by Justice MANSFIELD.

THE LARGE FIRE IN BEEKMAN-STREET.

ESTIMATED LOSS $400,000,

Three Five Story Buildings with Their Contents Destroyed.

Statement of Losses and Insurances.

The loss by the fire Friday night, at Nos. 55, 57 and 59 Beekman-street is much greater than was at first reported. The fine five-story marble building, No. 55, which was owned by R. WYMAN, front, was utterly destroyed. He was insured for $35,000, but in what offices the reporters did not learn. Messrs. J. E. HALSEY & Co., dealers in hardware, who occupied the first floor, estimate their loss at $35,000; and on this they have insurance to the amount of $15,000, as follows: American, $2,000; Firemen's Fund, $3,000; Importers and Traders, $5,000, and Park, $5,000. The second floor was occupied by Messrs. FOSTER & TOWER, hardware dealers, who were insured for $5,000 in the North American and $5,000 in the Croton. Loss, total. Messrs. WOLF, DASH & FISHER, hardware dealers, on the third floor, were insured by the Niagara Company for $15,000; their loss is fully that amount. Messrs. SEMON, BACHE & Co., dealers in window glass, in the basement, lost everything: they were insured by the Hoffman Company for $5,000; by the Greenwich for $5,000; the Bowery, $5,000; Commonwealth, $5,000; Merchants', $3,300; Lafayette, $3,000; Hope, $2,500, and Lorrilard, $6,500. Messrs. E. ROBBINS & BRADLEY, a firm which was formerly engaged in Southern trade, had a stock on storage in the sub-cellar, the value of which has not been reported. The firm insure themselves. In the basement the Baldwin Tool Company had stock which was insured for $3,500; total loss.

The flames ran from the upper stories of No. 55, through the roof of No. 57, and made a complete wreck of the fourth and fifty stories of that building. The losses and insurance are as follows: On the first floor, Messrs. BASSET & MACH, dealers in hardware, had a stock valued at about $100,000, and this is very seriously damaged by water; perhaps $75,000, they think, may cover their loss; they were unable this morning to give the amount of their insurance or say by what companies they were insured. On the second floor, Mr. JOHN SCOTT had a stock of hardware which he valued at about $130,000, and which is more than half destroyed. His insurance were in the Resolute, Relief, Germania, Adriatic, Yonkers, (of New-York,) Columbia, Croton, Hoffman, Mercantile, Williamsburgh City, Park, Citizens', Harmony, Empire City and Manhattan offices, for $5,000 each—total, $75,000. On the third floor, Messrs. EDWARD BARNES & Co. lost heavily by fire and water; they are insured for $30,000. On the fourth and fifth stories, the Stanley Rule and Level Company had on storage more than $50,000 worth of goods, which were totally destroyed; they were insured for $40,000—$5,000 in the Merchants' office, $4,000 in the Baltic, $5,000 in the Tradesmen's, $4,500 in the International, $5,000 in the Importers' and Traders', $4,500 in the Home, $3,000 in the Jersey City, $5,000 in the Humboldt, $5,000 in the Empire City, and $5,000 in the Greenwich.

No. 59 was considerably damaged by water. Messrs. NORTON & BASSETT, dealers in saddlery and hardware, suffered some loss, but the amount has not been estimated. They are insured for $40,500, as follows: Continental Company, $3,000; Arctic, $3,000; St. Nicholas, $2,500; Grocers', $5,000; Citizens', $5,000; Home, $4,000; Etna, (Hartford,) $5,000; Firemen's, (Newark,) $2,000; Charter Oak, $1,000; American Exchange, $3,000; Albany City, $5,000; and Commonwealth, $2,000. On the second and third floors, the Whipple File Company had a large stock of goods, upon which their insurance is $70,000, in the Metropolitan, Hanover, Eliot, (Boston,) and Shoe and Leather Dealers', (Boston,) for $5,000 each, and in the Liverpool and London Office, $40,000.

Messrs. ENDICOTT & Co., lithographers, on the third floor of No. 59, lost about $1,000 by water. They have insurance in the Firemen's Trust, Etna, (Hartford,) Mechanics' and Traders', and Washington; and Messrs. E. BARNES & SON, dealers in cutlery, lost their entire stock. Insurance $17,000, in the Greenwich, Jefferson, Mercantile and Globe offices.

Messrs. SAMUEL GLEN & BROTHER, hardware dealers, occupying the rear of the third floor at No. 55, lost their whole stock, to the value of $30,000 They are insured for $15,500.

No. 53, occupied by the LAMSON & GOODENOW Hardware Manufacturing Company, was damaged by water; loss about $30,000. Insurances in New-York offices: Standard, $5,000; Jefferson, $5,000; Washington, $5,000; Adriatic, $5,000; Resolute, $5,000; Home, $15,000; Continental, $5,000; Hanover, $5,000: Arctic, $5,000. Boston companies: Merchants', $10,000; Manufacturers', $10,000; National, $5,000; Eliot, $5,000; American, $5,000; North American, $5,000. Providence companies: Mercantile, $5,000; American, $5,000; Washington, $5,000.

Nos. 51 and 53, which were damaged about $5,000, were insured in the National, Bowery, and Knickerbocker offices.

This is the third extensive fire that has occurred on this spot within four years. Its origin is unknown.

We have not been able to ascertain the names of the owners of the buildings.

The Late Accident on the New-Haven Railroad.

CONCLUSION OF THE CORONER'S INVESTIGATION—THE VERDICT OF THE JURY.

Yesterday the investigation before Coronor RANNEY, relative to the circumstances attending the accident to a New-Haven train on the Harlem Railroad at Seventy-seventh-street, on the 10th of October last, was concluded. It will be remembered that a soldier, named JAMES E. BULKLEY, lost his life, and many persons were injured by reason of the accident. The jury, after listening to an able and elaborate charge from the Coroner, rendered the following verdict:

"That deceased came to his death by injuries received from a railroad accident, caused by the accidental breaking of a rail on the 10th day of October last, at or near the corner of Seventy-seventh-street and Fourth-avenue. We exonorate the Harlem Road from all blame, but we censure the New Haven Road for the following reasons:

1. For running ordinary passenger trains with two powerful engines attached, and at such high rate of speed, especially within our city limits.

2. For not attaching to their cars the Creamer brake, so called, as the best in use, commending as it does almost universal approbation. Further, we believe that some important penal legislation is necessary in the present condition of our railroads, regulating the rate of speed and restricting it to 25 miles an hour as a maximum out of the city, and five miles an hour within its limits. Also, we believe that such legislation should be extended so as to enforce a rigid inspection of iron rails and railroad materials, especially at the manufactory, so that their perfection may, if possible, be established before using them.

The inquisition in this case has had fifteen sessions, and the most experienced railroad men throughout the country have given their testimony relative to the questions involved. The Harlem Company was represented on the inquest by Mr. HORACE F. CLARK, and the New-Haven Company by Mr. TRACY.

Annual Parade and Banquet of Eastman National Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

This event took place on Dec. 21, and it was also made the occasion of opening a sixth college building, (devoted exclusively to the departments of penmanship and telegraphing,) the other five buildings being found insufficient to accommodate the 1,600 students who have been brought together from all parts of the States and Territories, and from Canada, the West Indies, and even South America. The course of studies takes about three months, and comprises a complete practical instruction in all the details of banking, mercantile transactions, both foreign and domestic, wholesale and retail business of all kinds, with book-keeping, penmanship, telegraphing, railroading and canaling, forwarding, &c. It appears from letters received from Mr. SPOONER of the Treasury Department, Washington, and from President LINCOLN, that several of Prof. EASTMAN'S graduates have given the greatest satisfaction in the Government departments. The magnitude of the operations of the college and its importance to Poughkeepsie can be judged by the fact that, besides the appropriating of five church buildings, it is estimated that the students pay near $8,000 per week for board, to say nothing of their miscellaneous expenditures. It will be therefore readily understood that the interest evinced on the festive occasion on Thursday was very great. On Wednesday evening an address was delivered to the students at Pine's Hall; by Hon. ROMAN GARDNER, and at the same place on Thursday morning by Rev. Mr. BURCHARD, of New-York; and during the day a grand parade took place through the principal streets of the town by the College Brigade, 1,500 strong, divided into companies, and officered and drilled in complete military order, and accompanied by Grand Marshal and aids, past graduates and invited guests, with flags and banners, and Dodworth's and the College Cornet Bands, in all about 2,000, which presented a most imposing appearance.

In the evening a grand banquet was given in the immense, highly decorated building lately occupied by the Loyal Leaguers, and owned by the Buckeye Mower and Reaper Company, at which about 2,500 persons sat down to a liberal repast served up in excellent style. During the supper DODWORTH'S and the College Band played several selections of fine music, and afterward a short time was devoted to speeches and toasts pertinent to the occasion and complimentary to the successful enterprise of Prof. EASTMAN. The tables being cleared away, the invited guests, and particularly the younger and fairer portion of them, joined with the students in the mazy dance, which was kept up with vigor for some time.

"The Sheltering Arms."

An establishment which has been oddly, though aptly, christened by its managers, "The Sheltering arms," having for its object the care of *all* children, irrespective of age, whose parents may desire to avail themselves of its advantages, is now in successful operation at Manhattanville. It was opened on the 6th of October last, and an idea of its practical working may be best obtained by presenting a brief statement of the cases of the children now in the house. One is a blind girl of four years, hence, not old enough, under the rules, to be entered at the Blind Asylum. Four are chronic invalids, or permanent cripples, not likely to live to the age of maturity. Seven are orphans or half-orphans of a year old, therefore younger than are admitted to Orphan Asylums. Thirteen are children whom their friends were willing to place only here, because this institution alone, under its rules, could receive every member of the family, and thus avoid separation. Seven have both parents living, but the mothers, owing to sickness or other causes, are incapacited or unfit to take care of them. Three are children deserted by fathers, and put to board here by mothers who go out to work, or are at service. Probably, none of the inmates of this asylum would have entered any of the other institutions of the city devoted to the good of unfortunate children. Some would have been excluded by the rules governing these institutions as to the age and other disqualifications of the applicants, while quite as many more would have been kept out on account of the natural pride of the parents, and their unwillingness to lose control of their offspring. In most cases, therefore, the welfare, temporal and spiritual, of the little ones was being sacrificed. In one instance, a father, going out at early morning to his work, and returning late and weary, left each day in unavoidable filth and neglect, four little ones, the eldest a cripple of eight years. Sending them now to "The Sheltering Arms" he willingly pays more than one half his wages for their support. By this house, therefore, provision is made for children, who, although neither orphans nor friendless, are as much in need of a home as though they were both. Having a contagious disease is the only bar to admission to the institution.

"The Sheltering Arms" has been filled to its entire capacity since the day it was opened, and the Superintendent is obliged daily to close the doors against children painfully in need of its relief. It is eminently desirable that its accommodations should be extended at once, and to this end the Trustees have addressed a circular to their fellow-citizens, asking for aid. The expenses of supporting this charity, when once fairly under way, will be light, as the board of many of the inmates is paid for at a low rate by the parents. Donations may be sent to H. C. VON POST, Treasurer, No. 68 Broad-street, New-York, or to the Superintendent, Manhattanville, N. Y. The Superintendent will send for articles of clothing or gifts of provisions, if notified by post, or they may be sent by Sandford's Express, No. 114 Warren-street, marked "For the Sheltering Arms."

The Eleventh Regiment Troubles—Col. Maidhof Returned to His Command.

The following correspondence explains itself:

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
STATE OF NEW-YORK,
ALBANY, Dec. 13, 1864.

General:

Col. JOACHIM MAIDHOF, Eleventh Regiment National Guard, was tried by a court-martial, convened under Special Orders No. 36, dated Headquarters, First Division New-York State National Guard, New-York, Aug. 15, 1864, and found guilty of "disobedience of orders," and sentenced "to be cashiered and incapacitated for the term of twelve months from holding any military commission."

Col. MAIDHOF, under Section 202 Militia Laws, approved April, 1862, has appealed from the finding and sentence of the Court.

The proceedings of the court, transmitted by yourself, I have carefully examined. The testimony does not, in my opinion, sustain the charge of "disobedience of orders;" but, while coming to this conclusion, there is enough in the testimony, as developed in the proceedings, to show that Col. MAIDHOF did not discharge his duty with that zeal and alacrity which has heretofore distinguished him in command of his regiment; nor was there that concurrence of action, on the part of the officers and men of the regiment, which was expected in such an emergency.

The meeting of officers and soldiers as disclosed in the progress of the court martial, and the adoption of resolutions, is at all times pernicious, and has a tendency to destroy the discipline, and, consequently, the efficiency of a regiment. Orders from acknowledged superiors should be promptly obeyed; and if errors are committed, or wrongs inflicted, redress can only be obtained by appeal to superior officers.

It is claimed by the defence, that the order promulgated by Major-Gen. SANDFORD was not warranted by the order of the Commander-in-Chief. However this may have been, it was the duty of Col. MAIDHOF to have promptly responded to the order of his superior, appealing, if necessary, for the protection of his command, to the Commander-in-Chief. Upon no other principle than that of implicit obedience to all orders of superior officers, can the efficiency of the service be preserved.

The findings and sentence of the court are disapproved.

Col. JOACHIM MAIDHOF, Eleventh Regiment New-York State National Guard, is relieved from arrest and returned to duty. I am, General, very respectfully,

Your obd't Servt., HORATIO SEYMOUR.

To Major-Gen. CHARLES W. SANDFORD, commanding First Division New-York State National Guard, New-York City.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, N. Y. S. N. G.,
NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 7.—The foregoing decision and orders of the Commander-in-Chief are promulgated for the information of the Division.

The Major-General regrets the necessity of publishing such an order respecting any regiment of the First Division.

The emergency alluded to by the Commander-in-Chief, when this regiment was ordered upon duty, was the defence of our National Capital, then threatened by a rebel army, and this was the first instance of any regiment of this division refusing to respond to a call to support the honor of our flag and of our country.

The Major-General trusts that the future good conduct of the Eleventh Regiment may restore the reputation which this event has impaired.

In obedience to the order of the Commander-in-Chief, Col. MAIDHOF will assume the command of the Eleventh Regiment, and report for duty to Brig.-Gen. EWEN.

By order of Maj.-Gen. CHARLES W. SANDFORD.
ALEX. HAMILTON, Division Inspector.

TESTIMONIAL [TO INSPECTOR CARPENTER.—Last evening Inspector DANIEL CARPENTER, of the Metropolitan Police, was the recipient of a handsome testimonial from the court squads under command of Sergts. GILMORE, BRACKETT, POTTER and LEFFERTS. The present was a fine solid gold shield, of the regulation pattern, with a gold chain attached. The ceremony took place at the residence of the Inspector, No. 411 West Thirty-fourth-street. The presentation was made by Sergt. GILMORE, of the First District Police, and Mr. CARPENTER responded in an appropriate speech. The following is the inscription on the shield: "Presented to Inspector DANIEL CARPENTER by the officers attached to the Police Courts,